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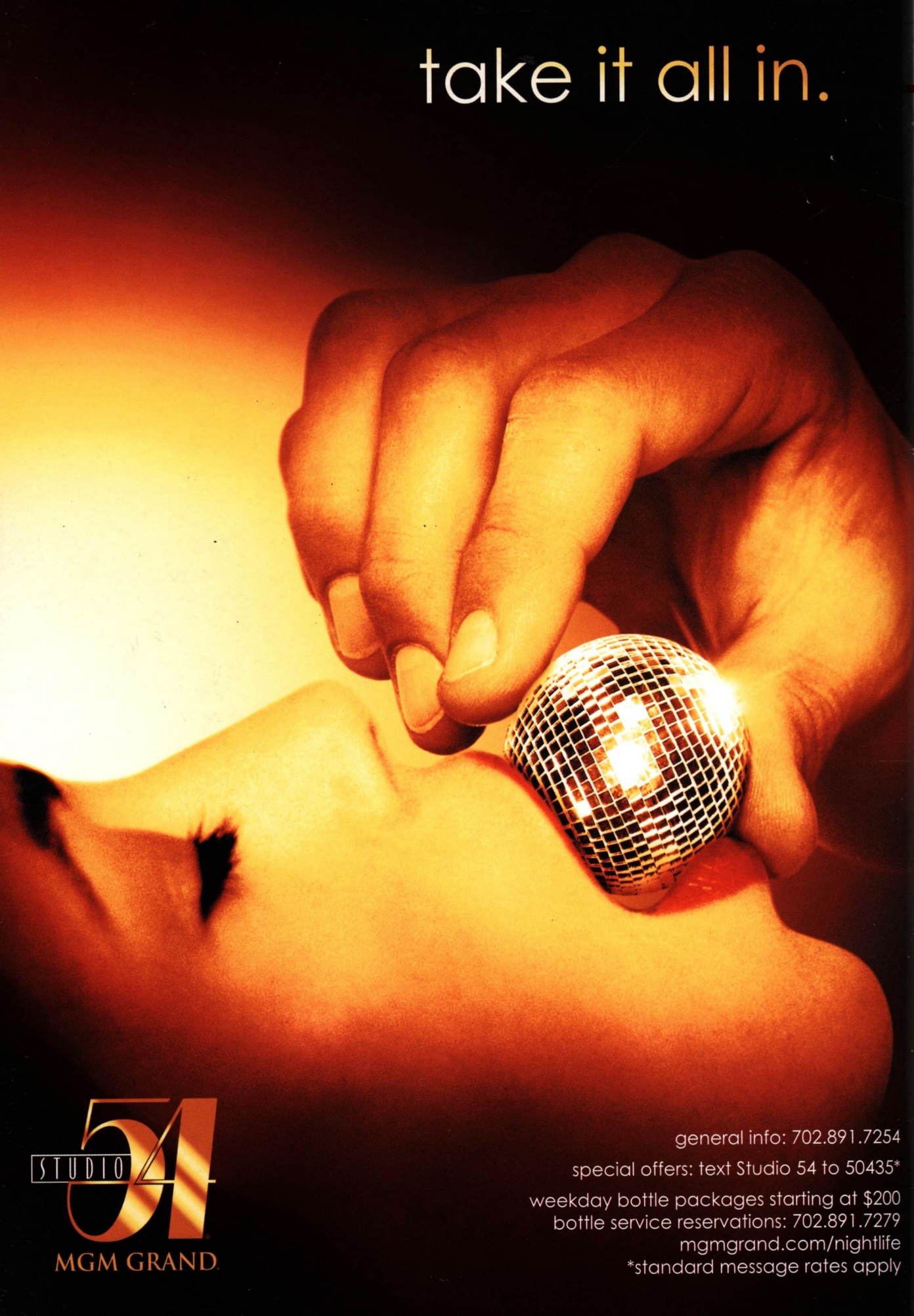
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Volume 89, No. 6 May 2010

More Than Just A Superfight

The fights that have fired our imagination over the centuries have almost always been about more than just the contests themselves. True, ultimately, quality of the fight is the most important thing. But that's only the bottom line.

There are many ingredients in the mix that create a super fight, and the Shane Mosley-Floyd Mayweather bout features a number of classic elements.

Stylistically, it's not a straightforward bull vs. matador match. Nobody is expecting Ali-Frazier. There is, however, enough of a contrast in styles to make a difference. Although both fighters have superior speed and excellent technique, Mayweather is a defensive wizard and Mosley an aggressive boxer-puncher. If Mosley has one great fight left in him at age 38, it could conceivably be an exhilarating struggle.

A juicy controversy always heightens the tension leading up to a big fight, but as this issue went to press, approximately two months prior to Mosley-Mayweather, everything was peachy. Even so, the drug-testing disagreement that scuttled the Mayweather-Manny Pacquiao fight has direct ramifications on Mosley-Mayweather.

When Mosley agreed to accept the Olympic-style testing that Pacquiao rejected, Mayweather-Mosley became an unofficial audition for blood screening that goes well beyond the current requirements of state commissions throughout the United States. Performance-enhancing drugs are a growing problem that much of the boxing industry seems hesitant to tackle, but it's going to have to eventually, and Mosley-Mayweather could be a bellwether of significant change.

But having said that, until the commissions legally change their drug-testing policies and procedures, I do not think any fighter, including Pacquiao, should be forced to take a test not required in the jurisdiction in which the fight takes place. That's not obeying the law; it's making it up as you go along.

The fact that Mosley accepted non-required testing while Pacquiao refused says a lot about the men's points of view more than anything else. It is not, however, the differences between Pacquiao and Mosley that's important here, it's the differences between Mosley and Mayweather.

Who Mayweather and Mosley are and what they represent is the undercurrent that gives the fight it's distinctive flavor. Although Mosley is less than six years older, he's definitely old school compared to Mayweather. Even their nicknames ("Sugar" and "Money") are from two distinct eras and mindsets.

Until he confronted Mayweather in the ring after the Juan Manuel Marquez fight last year, Mosley seldom had an unkind word to say about another fighter. In an age of arrogant, trash-talking boxers, he's been a pleasant anomaly—fiercely competitive but polite and gracious at the same time.

Mayweather, on the other hand, assumes a gangsta-like persona with spoiled brat overtones—taking it to such extremes that he often seems a cartoon character outside the ring. Little Floyd has his followers to be sure, but for many others the aggravation factor makes it impossible to root for him.

Although it's difficult to quantify, there's little doubt that the clash of personalities adds considerably to the bout's appeal. While Mayweather's fans see Mosley as a past-his-prime Goody Two-Shoes, Mosley fans believe Mayweather needs to be taken down a peg or two and that their guy is the man for the job.

Who knows how things will turn out when the bell rings on May 1 at the MGM Grand? But many of the earmarks that have produced unforgettable fights in the past are present. Now it's all up to the fighters.

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief

The Ring

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[Opening Shot]

Sucking Up The Punches

Poor Sergio Macias hasn't had his hand raised in victory since 2004 and had only won two of his 15 most-recent bouts when he entered the ring to fight Dashon "Flyboy" Johnson on February 12 at the Pechanga Resort & Casino in Temecula, California. Midway into the third round, Macias was counted out, adding another loss to his 14-20-1 (6) record, while Johnson won his seventh straight to improve to 9-2-2 (3).

PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

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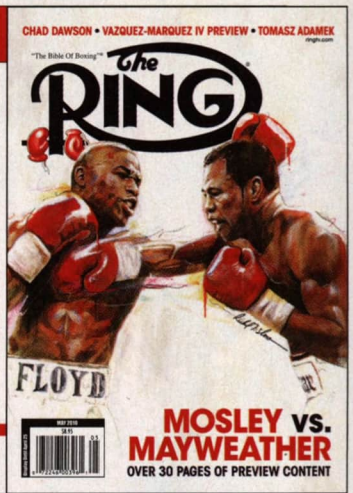

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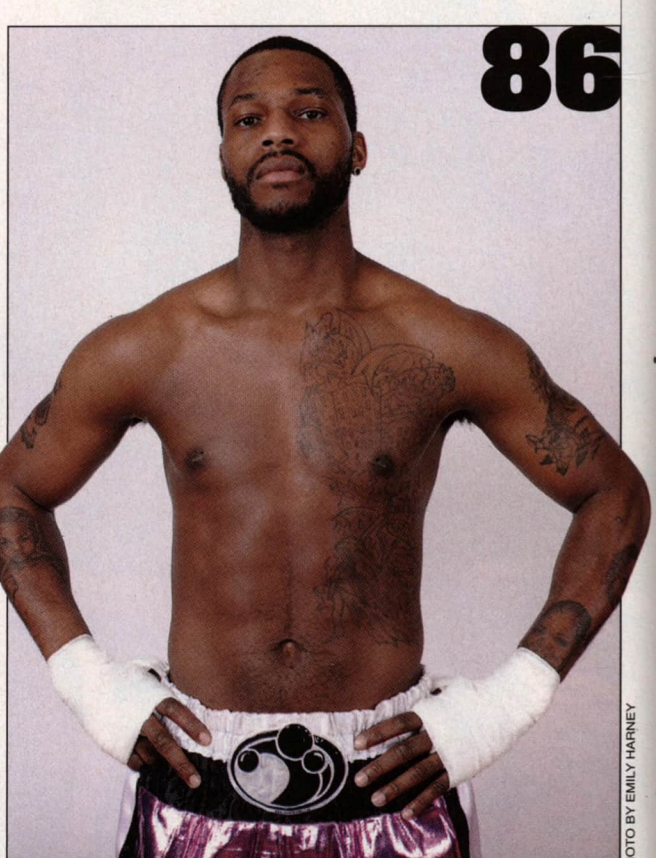

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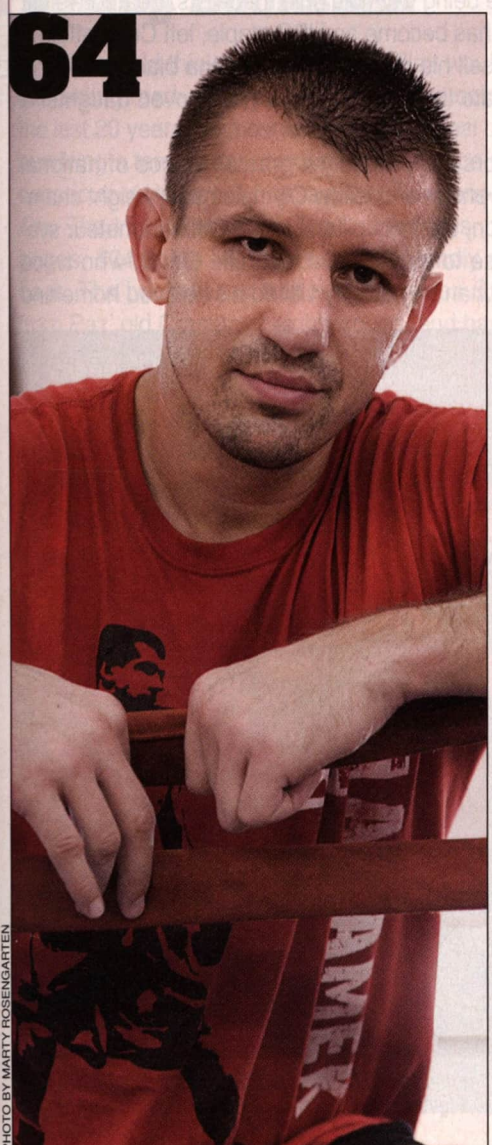

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

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Documentary Highlights Cuban Boxers' Plight

Scores of championship-caliber boxers have hailed from Cuba, but three years after Fidel Castro's 1959 takeover thrust the country into a totalitarian regime, he barred all professional sports on the island. If future Hall of Famers such as Luis Rodriguez and Jose Napoles wanted to ply their trade, they were forced to relocate. Knowing they might never see their families again, they fled to Miami or Mexico, hoping to earn enough money to someday get their loved ones out of their beleaguered homeland.

The pain, sorrow, and desperation of Cuban boxers—past and present—is compellingly examined in the powerful documentary, *A Fighting Chance*, that was written and directed by Bobby Cassidy Jr., whose father, "Irish" Bobby Cassidy, fought Rodriguez in 1971. The film was produced by Cassidy Jr. (a former staffer and current contributor to THE RING), Fred Rosenberg, and David Schuster.

Shot on location in Havana, Mexico City, Miami, Atlantic City, New York City, and at the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York, the producers spoke to many fighters, including the great Teofilo Stevenson, a three-time Olympic heavyweight gold medalist who was once offered $10-million to box in the United States. A reporter for the state newspaper claimed that the immensely proud Stevenson would rather have the love and adoration of 10 million countrymen than $10-million in the bank.

It is obvious that Castro's presence still elicits fear and reticence. Despite being a gracious and polite host, Stevenson refused to grant the producers an official on-camera interview, but he did answer questions when the cameras weren't rolling. When Castro's name was mentioned, former lightweight champion Joel Casamayor abruptly halted the interview. Even local people extolling the virtues of communism insisted upon having their identities concealed.

Besides offering a sociological history lesson, the film follows the paths of current prospects Guillermo Rigondeaux and Yuriorkis Gamboa, both of whom defected from the country despite being Olympic gold medalists. Featherweight Gamboa, who has become an HBO staple, left Cuba after he was forced to sell his medal on the Havana black market in order to generate the funds to throw his beloved daughter a birthday party.

The defectors are probably a greater source of national pride than Stevenson and fellow Olympic heavyweight champion Felix Savon, the "twin pillars" of the Cuban amateur system, who chose to stay behind. Frankie Otero, who twice fought Ken Buchanan, recently visited his beloved homeland

PHOTO BY DAVID C. MORGAN

***All-star lineup: (from left to right): Felix Trinidad, Sugar Ramos, Ramiro Ortiz (chairman of the Florida State Athletic Commission), Juan Manuel Lopez, and Florentino Fernandez. Ramos and Fernandez were in New York for the screening of* A Fighting Chance.**

after living in Florida for decades. He tearfully described it as being akin to a once beautiful woman whose skin is now sagging, her beauty gone forever. While the people are still proud and educated, he said he was unable to ignore the desperation in the air.

This is the Cuba that Gamboa, like so many fighters before him, has left behind. With HBO committed to developing Gamboa into a superstar, this film would be the perfect lead-in to one of his fights. It would likely generate a new generation of fans, who would realize that boxing is not just a sport that arguably exploits its participants. In many cases it is not just a way of life and a means to an end, but a basis for survival.

—Robert Mladinich

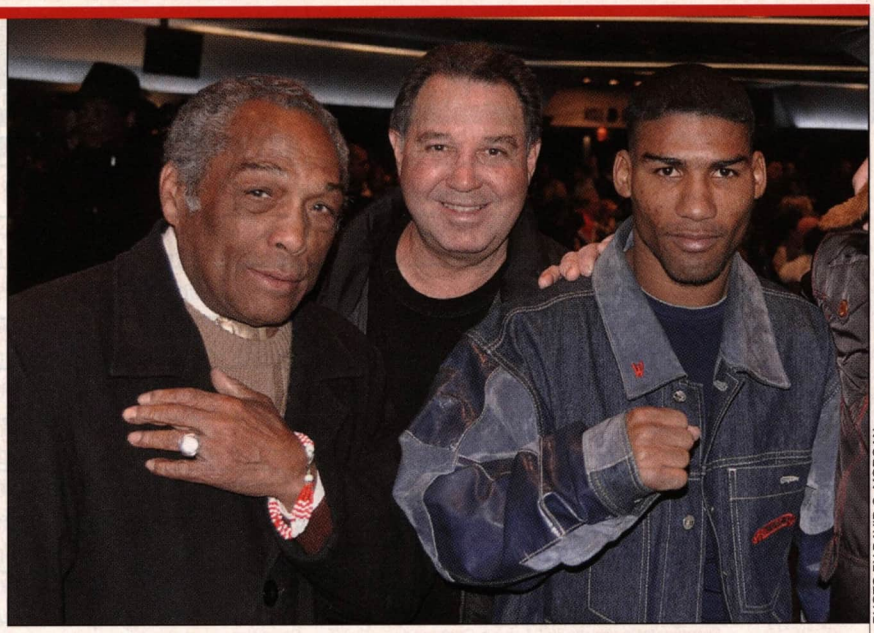


PHOTO BY DAVID C. MORGAN

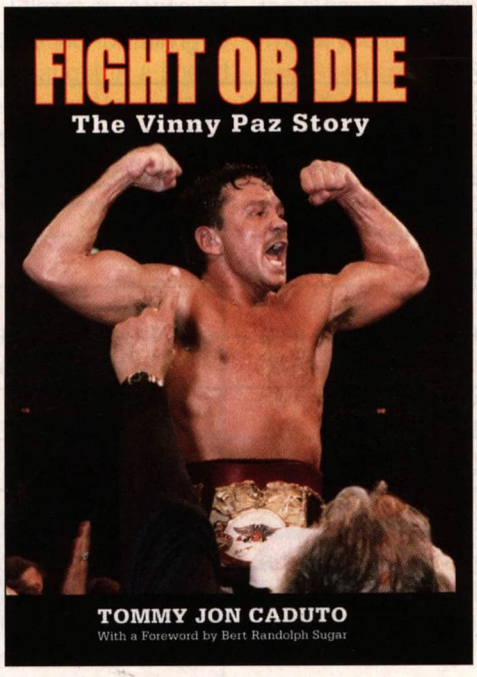
Yuriorkis Gamboa (right) poses with fellow Cuban boxers Ramos and Frankie Otero

Boxing Bookshelf

One would think the life of Vinny Paz would make for an interesting read—he was one of the more colorful fighters of the last 20 years, he mounted an inspirational comeback after surviving a terrible car accident, and he once swallowed five consecutive left hooks from a prime Roy Jones. Yet, *Fight or Die, The Vinny Paz Story* (The Lyons Press, hardcover, 215 pages, $24.95) is little more than a friendly pat on Vinny's back. The book was written by Tommy Jon Caduto, a friend from Paz' old Cranston neighborhood, and has a tight-lipped feel to it. It's not a "tell all," it's a "don't say too much." That's not good when the subject is Paz.

Instead of learning about Paz' wild personal life, we learn about Vinny's love of coffee and donuts (no mention if he also loved a little "juice" to go with that coffee), and how he'd been a brilliant schoolyard football player ("an 11-year-old kamikaze, a ball-hawking maniac ... "). Paz comes off as a good-natured kid who simply liked to train and fight. At times, he seems unbelievably naïve, led around by various trainers and hucksters who never had his best interests at heart.

Caduto overplays Vinny's boxing prowess a bit, and he makes every one of Paz' opponents sound like a berserker. For instance, Gilbert Dele, the fighter Paz beat for a junior middleweight belt, is described as a "middleweight from France who simply did not beat his opponents, he demolished them."



Gilbert Dele?

There are other glaring missteps in *Fight or Die*, such as Caduto writing that Joe Frazier won the Olympic gold in Athens, when it was actually Tokyo. Also, Caduto spends too much time on Paz' recovery from his auto accident. Worst of all is that Caduto summed up the years 1993 to 2004 in a skimpy five-page "epilog." That's a shame, for these years featured some of Paz' best (and worst) fights. One of Paz' bravest efforts, his 2001 loss to Aaron Davis, is not even mentioned.

While the book isn't billed as an "authorized" biography, Paz has made some bookstore appearances to put his signature on it. He obviously approves of *Fight or Die*, although there are rumors that Paz wants to do his own book someday. Unfortunately, this was really the perfect time for a great book on Paz to hit us, just a few years after his retirement, while his bloody face is still fresh in our memory. Did The Lyons Press really think readers would be satisfied with such a tame little bio?

We once contacted Paz' publicity agent to get in touch with Paz for a possible story. The rep gave us a number where Paz could be reached, but sternly warned us to not call before 2:00 PM, because "Vinny gets angry if you disturb his sleep." That's the Paz we might've enjoyed reading about. For now, we have a book that should've been called *My Pal Vinny*.

—Don Stradley

TV Fights of the Month

Compiled By Martin Mulcahey

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
01/29/10	Jesus Ruiz W 12 Luis Melendez *Youth triumphs in a fight that saw both men on the canvas*	Telemundo	b	B-	B-	B-
01/29/10	Archie Ray Marquez W 8 Derrick Campos *The kid better be good with three Hall of Fame names!*	Showtime	jl	C	C+	C+
01/29/10	Chris Avalos KO 4 Jose Nieves *Another future titleholder produced by the ShoBox series?*	Showtime	b	B-	B	B
01/29/10	Raymond Serrano W 8 Ronnie Warrior *Serrano beats a warrior who had been out of the ring for two years*	ESPN2	w	C	D	C-
01/29/10	Jesse Brinkley W 12 Curtis Stevens *Overachiever defeats underachiever*	ESPN2	sm	B-	B+	B+
01/29/10	Erislandy Lara KO 9 Grady Brewer *Why aren't American Olympians fighting tough foes like this?*	FOX Sports	jm	B-	C+	C+
01/29/10	Beibut Shumenov W 12 Gabriel Campillo *In Vegas aggression is rewarded more than skill*	Fox Sports	lh	B	B	C+
01/30/10	Eduardo Escobedo W 10 Joksan Hernandez *Good boxers throw too many wide punches*	Fox Sports	f	C+	C+	C+
01/30/10	Jorge Arce Tech. Win 7 Angky Angkota *Angkota was in the corner more than a naughty child*	Fox Sports	jb	B	C+	C+
02/05/10	Francisco Contreras KO 1 Juan Castaneda *Dominican destroyer was impressive in TV debut*	Showtime	jw	C	B-	B-
02/05/10	Freddy Hernandez KO 5 DeMarcus Corley *One head-twisting punch undoes all of Corley's good work*	Showtime	w	B-	B	B
02/05/10	Guillermo Rigondeaux KO 1 Adolfo Landeros *Legendary amateur is turning into a crippling body puncher*	ESPN2	jf	C	D	C+
02/05/10	Ed Paredes KO 2 Joey Hernandez *Emphatic rematch kayo leaves no need for rubber match*	ESPN2	jm	C+	B	B-
02/05/10	Glen Johnson KO 6 Yusaf Mack *Old warhorse tramples another young stallion*	ESPN2	lh	A-	B+	B+
02/06/10	Tomas Villa DQ 10 Juan Ruiz *Villa remains calm in face of serial fouler*	FOX Sports	f	B	C	C
02/06/10	Brandon Rios KO 4 Jorge Teron *West Coast defeats East Coast in battle of prospects*	FOX Sports	l	B-	B	B
02/06/10	Luis Abregu W 10 Richard Gutierrez *Fight does not start for Abregu until he is knocked down*	Showtime	w	B	B	B
02/06/10	Edwin Valero KO 9 Antonio DeMarco *Valero shows a lot more than just a big punch*	Showtime	l	A-	B+	B
02/12/10	Ruslan Provodnikov KO 8 Javier Jauregui *Russian smiles when hit and snarls when punching*	ESPN2	jw	C	C+	C+
02/12/10	Ji Hoon Kim KO 5 Tyrone Harris *Pressure fighter rallies to kayo chronic fader*	ESPN2	jl	C+	C+	B-
02/13/10	Bernabe Concepcion W 10 Mario Santiago *If Santiago fought every round like the 10th, he would be a champion*	PPV	f	B+	A-	B-
02/13/10	Eric Morel W 12 Gerry Penalosa *Robbery of the year will be a hotly contested category in 2010*	PPV	b	B	B+	C+
02/13/10	Fernando Montiel KO 1 Ciso Morales *Anyone surprised a 15-fight novice did not last three minutes?*	PPV	b	B-	D	C
02/13/10	Nonito Donaire KO 3 Manuel Vargas *Late substitute makes early exit*	PPV	jb	A-	C	B-
02/19/10	Edel Ruiz KO 4 Clarence Adams *This proves Adams should re-retire*	Telemundo	jb	C+	C	C+
02/19/10	William Gonzalez W 12 Jesus Vazquez *Nicaraguan is fun TV fighter on his way to another title shot*	Telemundo	b	B	C	C+
02/19/10	Lanard Lane W 8 Martin Tucker *Houston fireman shows some heat in the ring*	ESPN2	w	C+	B-	C+
02/19/10	Shawn Porter W 10 Russell Jordan *Seven-inch taller Jordan slowly cut down to size*	ESPN2	jm	C+	C+	C+
02/20/10	Urbano Antillon KO 3 Luis Arceo *A boxer nicknamed "Vampiro" should not be the one bleeding*	Fox Sports	l	B	C	B
02/20/10	Giovanni Segura KO 4 Walter Tello *Fighters weighing less than ring-card girls threw heavyweight punches*	Fox Sports	jfl	A-	C+	B-

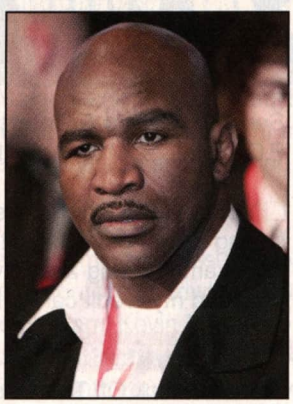
Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(RING championship fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Outside the Ropes

An eight-foot bronze statue of former heavyweight champion **Joe Louis** was unveiled in his birthplace of Lafayette, Alabama. Residents of Lafayette, a town of approximately 3,000, raised $60,000 to have the sculpture made and erected outside the Chambers County Courthouse. Fundraiser **James Hardy** said the many Lafayette residents were unaware that Louis lived there until he moved to Detroit when he was 10 years old ... Bantamweight **Z Gorres** is finally back in the Philippines after a lengthy convalescence at the University Medical Center in Las Vegas, where he was admitted on November 13 following a bout against **Luis Melendez** in which Gorres suffered a brain injury. Three weeks after surgery, Gorres awoke from a coma and soon began rehabilitation. Other Filipino fighters are rallying to his aid. **Manny Pacquiao** said he would organize a fundraiser to pay Gorres' medical bill, which is more than $500,000, and **Nonito Donaire** also promised to lend a helping hand ... **Candi Holyfield**, the wife of former heavyweight champion **Evander Holyfield**, has asked an Atlanta, Georgia, judge to drop the protective order she obtained against her husband. Mrs. Holyfield had claimed that her husband had hit her in the face, the back of the head, and the back. A few days later, the couple issued a joint statement saying that they were meeting with TV's **Dr. Phil McGraw** to see if he could help their relationship. But according to RadarOnline.com, Holyfield canceled his scheduled appearance on *Dr. Phil* after he and his wife had dinner with Dr. McGraw at his home ... Former cruiserweight contender **Enzo Maccarinelli**, 29, was fined for failing to provide information after his car was caught in a speed trap in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales ... Trainer **Roger Mayweather**, 48, has pleaded not guilty to assault charges and will go to trial on June 1. In the meantime, Mayweather remains free on $13,000 bail ... Former WBC heavyweight titleholder **Oliver McCall**, 44, was arrested in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on charges of possession of cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia, and parole violation. The arrest forced the cancellation of McCall's February 16 bout with **Zuri Lawrence** ... Former British light heavyweight champion **Johnny Frankham**, 61, has been sentenced to two years in prison for fraud. Frankham and accomplice **Tony Stevens** both pleaded not guilty, but the jury voted unanimously to convict them of overcharging **Jodi Phillie** approximately $14,000 to install insulation. Frankham, who fought from 1970 until 1976, complied a record of 28-11-1 (5) ... **Robert Guerrero**, 26, has vacated the IBF junior lightweight title to be with his wife, Casey, who is battling leukemia. "I feel that it is in the best interest of the sport and fans that I care so deeply for to give someone else a chance to fulfill their dream of becoming world champion," said Guerrero in a press release. "I am now focused on the love of my life, my wife Casey, as undoubtedly we face the greatest opponent of our life, cancer. Whatever the outcome, our faith in Jesus Christ will get us through. Thank you for your prayers and support. God bless." **Casey Guerrero**, who was stricken with leukemia in 2007, was recovering from a bone marrow transplant and chemotherapy when this issue went to press ... Veteran South African trainer **George le Rouz** died in Cape Town in February ... Beloved Philadelphia trainer **Al Fennell**, 77, died February 19, 2010, following a lengthy illness. Fennell trained former IBF junior middleweight titleholder **Robert "Bam Bam" Hines** throughout his career. He was also assistant trainer for former WBA junior middleweight titleholder **David Reid** and many others. "Al was a really wonderful guy," Philadelphia Hall of Fame promoter **J Russell Peltz** told the *Philadelphia Daily News*. "I never knew anybody who had a negative thing to say about him" ... Japanese flyweight **Hirokazu Yamaki**, 26, died in a Tokyo hospital on February 22 after sustaining a brain injury during a bout with **Toshimasa Ouchi**, 12-5-1 (3), on February 19 at Korakuen Hall. Yamaki, 7-9 (5), was knocked out in the eighth round and never regained consciousness. He underwent emergency surgery but did not survive.



Holyfield: Domestic drama

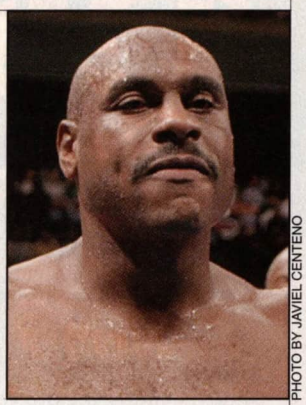
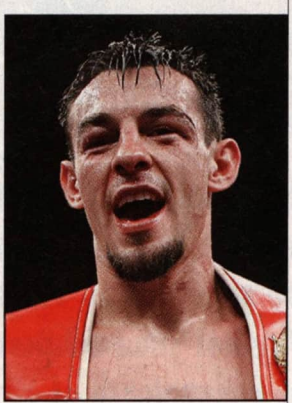


PHOTO BY JAVIEL CENTENO

McCall: Busted in Florida



Guerrero: Relinquishes title to be with sick wife

Quotable

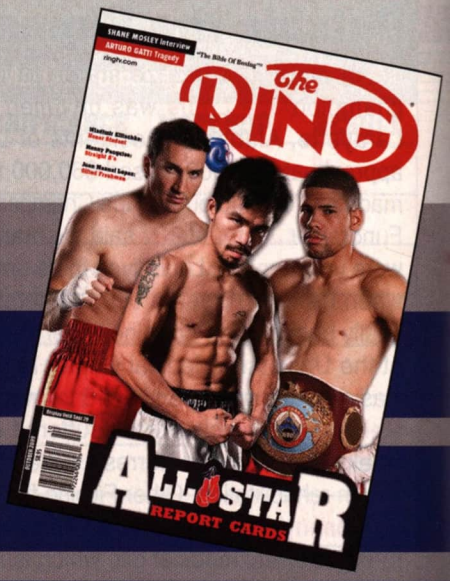
"He actually tried to bite my nipple off ... I had teeth marks on my chest. It was the most excruciating pain I ever went through in a fight."

—British heavyweight Kevin McBride recalling his TKO of Mike Tyson in 2006

"When I sparred him as an amateur and pro, I walked away thinking, Well, whoever I fight now they're not going to be doing too many things this guy can do."

—Fighter-turned-trainer John Scully writing about a prime Roy Jones in a column published in Boxing News.

The RING



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Ratings Analysis

For Period Ended February 21, 2010

Heavyweights: No changes.
Cruiserweights: World champion Tomasz Adamek vacates the title to fight at heavyweight. Vadim Tokarev (sixth last issue) exits due to inactivity. Everyone rated seven to 10 moves up one place each, enabling Denis Lebedev to debut at 10.
Light Heavyweights: Glen Johnson (third last issue) jumps to two following his sixth-round kayo of Yusaf Mack (seventh last issue), who departs. Johnson's elevation drops Bernard Hopkins (second last issue) to three. Mack's departure advances everyone eight and below one position and opens a spot for Nathan Cleverly at 10.
Super Middleweights: No changes.
Middleweights: No changes.
Junior Middleweights: No changes.
Welterweights: Antonio Margarito (sixth last issue), the contender with the most consecutive weeks in THE RING's welterweight rankings, exits for inactivity. Everyone below him raises one spot each, making room for Vyacheslav Senchenko to enter at 10.
Junior Welterweights: No changes.
Lightweights: Antonio DeMarco (ninth last issue) leaves after suffering a ninth-round TKO to number-one contender Edwin Valero, allowing David Diaz (10th last issue) to move to nine and Kevin Mitchell to re-enter at 10.
Junior Lightweights: Jorge Solis moves up from featherweight and comes in at 10, powered by his seventh-round KO of Likar Ramos. Solis replaces Vitali Tajbert, based on the strength of his record.
Featherweights: Solis (fourth last issue) moves to junior lightweight, allowing Steve Luevano (fifth last issue) to move to four. Bernabe Concepcion comes in at five, thanks to his decision victory over Mario Santiago (sixth last issue), who falls to nine. Elio Rojas (ninth last issue) jumps to seven and Martin Honorio (eighth last issue) leaves to campaign at junior lightweight. The reshuffling enables Rocky Juarez (10th last issue) to leap to eight, while Daniel Ponce De Leon debuts at 10.
Junior Featherweights: No changes.
Bantamweights: No changes.
Junior Bantamweights: Daiki Kameda (eighth last issue) exits to fight at flyweight, permitting Daigo Nakahiro (ninth last issue) and Drian Francisco (10th last issue) to move up one place each and make room for Jorge Arce at 10.
Flyweights: The division has been invaded by Kamedas, Koki at the top and now brother Daiki enters at four after his decision victory over Denkaosan Kaovichit, who drops two spots to five. Daisuke Naito (fourth last issue) bumps up to three, since he owns a victory over Daiki in October 2007. The addition of Daiki pushes everyone down a slot, forcing out Julio Cesar Miranda (10th last issue).
Junior Flyweights: No changes.
Strawweights: No changes.
Pound-for pound: Chad Dawson (ninth last issue) and Paul Williams (10th last issue) each step up one place each, pushing down Celestino Caballero (eighth last issue) to 10, since Caballero hasn't fought since August 2009.

The RING
"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

Pound-For-Pound

1. **Manny Pacquiao**
   Junior Welter/Welterweight
2. **Floyd Mayweather**
   Welterweight
3. **Shane Mosley**
   Welterweight
4. **Bernard Hopkins**
   Light Heavyweight
5. **Juan Manuel Marquez**
   Lightweight
6. **Nonito Donaire**
   Junior Bantamweight
7. **Miguel Cotto**
   Welterweight
8. **Chad Dawson**
   Light Heavyweight
9. **Paul Williams**
   Middleweight
10. **Celestino Caballero**
    Junior Featherweight

For weekly updated Ring ratings, go to **ringtv.com**

The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended February 21, 2010

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

Fighters recognized as champions by THE RING are rated at the top of their division, with the top 10 contenders listed below.

Championship vacancies can be filled by winning a box-off between THE RING's number-one and number-two contenders, or, in certain instances, a box-off between our number-one and number-three contenders.

The only three occasions when a fighter will lose his championship status are when he retires, moves to another weight division, or is defeated in a championship bout.

THE RING Ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board, with the participation of THE RING Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world. To see the complete list of our panelists, click on "Ratings" at ringtv.com.

Records provided by boxrec.com.

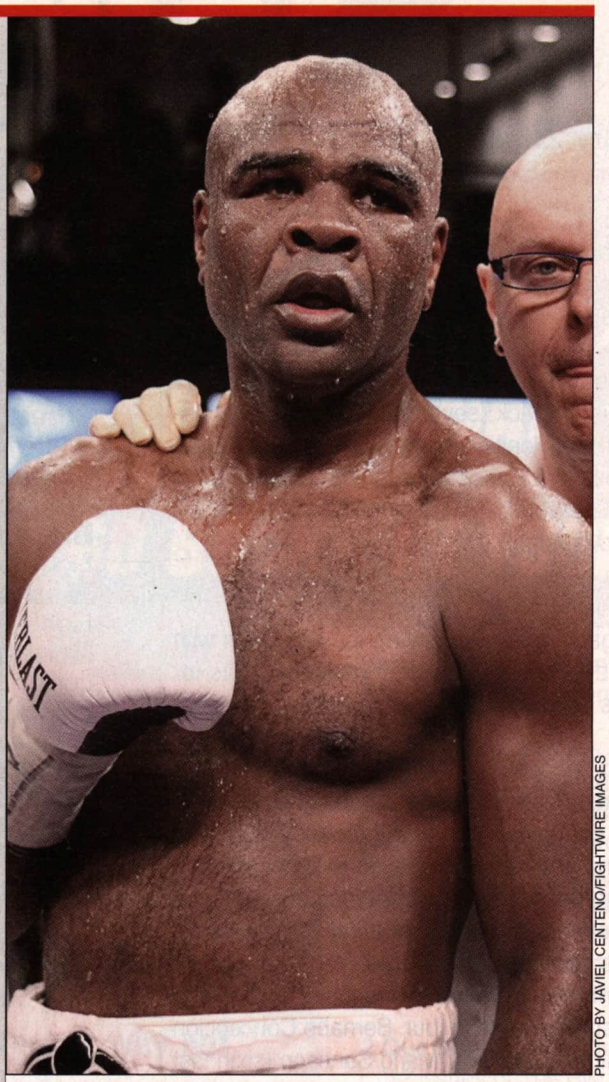


PHOTO BY JAVIEL CENTENO/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Glen Johnson advanced to second at light heavyweight after stopping Yusaf Mack

Heavyweights

Weight Unlimited

Champ: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
Ukraine 53-3 (47)

1. **VITALI KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine 39-2 (37)
2. **ALEXANDER POVETKIN**
Russia 18-0 (13)
3. **EDDIE CHAMBERS**
Philadelphia, PA 35-1 (18)
4. **RUSLAN CHAGAEV**
Uzbekistan 25-1-1 (17)
5. **DAVID HAYE**
England 23-1 (21)
6. **CHRIS ARREOLA**
Riverside, CA 28-1 (25)
7. **DENIS BOYTSOV**
Russia 27-0 (22)
8. **NICOLAY VALUEV**
Russia 50-2 (34)
9. **ALEXANDER DIMITRENKO**
Ukraine 29-1 (19)
10. **TONY THOMPSON**
Washington, D.C. 33-2 (21)

Jr. Middleweights

Weight Limit: 154 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
Argentina 44-2-2 (24)
2. **CORY SPINKS**
St. Louis, MO 37-5 (11)
3. **KERMIT CINTRON**
Reading, PA 32-2-1 (28)
4. **DEANDRE LATIMORE**
St. Louis, MO 20-2 (16)
5. **ALFREDO ANGULO**
Mexico 17-1 (14)
6. **RYAN RHODES**
England 43-4 (29)
7. **YURI FOREMAN**
Belarus 28-0 (8)
8. **JOACHIM ALCINE**
Canada 32-1 (19)
9. **VANES MARTIROSYAN**
Armenia 27-0 (17)
10. **ZAURBEK BAYSANGUROV**
Russia 23-1 (17)

Featherweights

Weight Limit: 126 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **CHRIS JOHN**
Indonesia 43-0-2 (22)
2. **JUAN MANUEL LOPEZ**
Puerto Rico 28-0 (25)
3. **CRISTOBAL CRUZ**
Mexico 39-11-2 (23)
4. **STEVEN LUEVANO**
La Puente, CA 37-2-1 (15)
5. **BERNABE CONCEPCION**
Philippines 30-2-1 (17)
6. **YURIORKIS GAMBOA**
Cuba 17-0 (15)
7. **ELIO ROJAS**
Dominican Republic 22-1 (13)
8. **ROCKY JUAREZ**
Houston, TX 28-5-1 (20)
9. **MARIO SANTIAGO**
Puerto Rico 21-2-1 (14)
10. **DANIEL PONCE DE LEON**
Mexico 38-2 (32)

Jr. Featherweights

Weight Limit: 122 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **CELESTINO CABALLERO**
Panama 33-2 (23)
2. **POONSAWAT KRATINGAENGGYM**
Thailand 40-1 (28)
3. **TOSHIAKI NISHIOKA**
Japan 35-4-3 (22)
4. **STEVE MOLITOR**
Canada 31-1 (12)
5. **BERNARD DUNNE**
Ireland 28-2 (15)
6. **RICARDO CORDOBA**
Panama 36-2-2 (23)
7. **JEFF MATHEBULA**
South Africa 23-2-2 (13)
8. **ANTONIO ESCALANTE**
Mexico 22-2 (14)
9. **RENDALL MUNROE**
England 20-1 (8)
10. **SATOSHI HOSONO**
Japan 16-1 (12)

Bantamweights

Weight Limit: 118 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **HOZUMI HASEGAWA**
Japan 28-2 (12)
2. **ANSELMO MORENO**
Panama 28-1-1 (10)
3. **WLADIMIR SIDORENKO**
Ukraine 21-2-2 (7)
4. **YONNHY PEREZ**
Colombia 20-0 (14)
5. **JOSEPH AGBEKO**
Ghana 27-2 (22)
6. **NEHOMAR CERMENO**
Venezuela 19-0 (11)
7. **SILENCE MABUZA**
South Africa 22-3 (18)
8. **ABNER MARES**
Mexico 19-0 (12)
9. **FERNANDO MONTIEL**
Mexico 40-3-1 (30)
10. **SASHA BAKHTIN**
Russia 24-0 (11)

Cruiserweights

Weight Limit: 200 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **STEVE CUNNINGHAM** Philadelphia, PA 22-2 (11)
2. **KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK** Poland 41-2-1 (31)
3. **ZSOLT ERDEI** Hungary 31-0 (17)
4. **MARCO HUCK** Yugoslavia 27-1 (20)
5. **GIACOBBE FRAGOMENI** Italy 26-2-1 (10)
6. **TROY ROSS** Canada 23-1 (16)
7. **DANNY GREEN** Australia 28-3 (25)
8. **MATT GODFREY** Providence, RI 20-1 (10)
9. **OLA AFOLABI** England 14-2-3 (6)
10. **DENIS LEBEDEV** Russia 19-0 (14)

Light Heavyweights

Weight Limit: 175 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **CHAD DAWSON** New Haven, CT 29-0 (17)
2. **GLEN JOHNSON** Jamaica 50-13-2 (34)
3. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA 50-5-1 (32)
4. **ANTONIO TARVER** Orlando, FL 27-6 (19)
5. **JEAN PASCAL** Haiti 25-1 (16)
6. **TAVORIS CLOUD** Tallahassee, FL 20-0 (18)
7. **VYACHESLAV UZELKOV** Ukraine 22-0 (14)
8. **ADRIAN DIACONU** Romania 26-2 (15)
9. **KARO MURAT** Iraq 21-0 (13)
10. **NATHAN CLEVERLY** England 19-0 (9)

Super Middleweights

Weight Limit: 168 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **LUCIAN BUTE** Romania 25-0 (20)
2. **ANDRE WARD** Oakland, CA 21-0 (13)
3. **CARL FROCH** England 26-0 (21)
4. **MIKKEL KESSLER** Denmark 42-2 (32)
5. **SAKIO BIKA** Cameroon 28-3-2 (19)
6. **ARTHUR ABRAHAM** Armenia 31-0 (25)
7. **ALLAN GREEN** Tulsa, OK 29-1 (20)
8. **LIBRADO ANDRADE** Mexico 28-3 (21)
9. **ROBERT STIEGLITZ** Germany 37-2 (23)
10. **EDUARD GUTKNECHT** Kazakhstan 18-0 (7)

Middleweights

Weight Limit: 160 pounds

Champ: KELLY PAVLIK Youngstown, OH 36-1 (32)

1. **FELIX STURM** Germany 33-2-1 (14)
2. **PAUL WILLIAMS** Augusta, GA 38-1 (27)
3. **SEBASTIAN SYLVESTER** Germany 33-3 (16)
4. **KHOREN GEVOR** Armenia 31-4 (16)
5. **MATTHEW MACKLIN** England 26-2 (18)
6. **ANTHONY MUNDINE** Australia 38-3 (23)
7. **DAVID LOPEZ** Mexico 38-12 (23)
8. **DANIEL GEALE** Australia 22-1 (13)
9. **SEBASTIAN ZBIK** Germany 28-0 (10)
10. **ROMAN KARMAZIN** Russia 40-3-1 (26)

Welterweights

Weight Limit: 147 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **MANNY PACQUIAO** Philippines 50-3-2 (38)
2. **SHANE MOSLEY** Pomona, CA 46-5 (39)
3. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER** Grand Rapids, MI 40-0 (25)
4. **MIGUEL COTTO** Puerto Rico 34-2 (27)
5. **JOSHUA CLOTTEY** Ghana 35-3 (20)
6. **ANDRE BERTO** Winter Haven, FL 25-0 (19)
7. **LUIS COLLAZO** Queens, NY 30-4 (15)
8. **RAFAL JACKIEWICZ** Poland 35-8-1 (18)
9. **JAN ZAVECK** Slovenia 28-1 (16)
10. **VYACHESLAV SENCHENKO** Ukraine 30-0 (20)

Jr. Welterweights

Weight Limit: 140 pounds

Champ: MANNY PACQUIAO Philippines 50-3-2 (38)

1. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY** Palm Springs, CA 25-0 (11)
2. **AMIR KHAN** England 22-1 (16)
3. **RICKY HATTON** England 45-2 (32)
4. **DEVON ALEXANDER** St. Louis, MO 19-0 (12)
5. **PAUL MALIGNAGGI** Brooklyn, NY 27-3 (5)
6. **JUAN URANGO** Colombia 22-2-1 (17)
7. **KENDALL HOLT** Paterson, NJ 25-3 (13)
8. **MARCOS MAIDANA** Argentina 27-1 (26)
9. **ANDREAS KOTELNIK** Ukraine 31-3-1 (13)
10. **MIKE ALVARADO** Denver, CO 26-0 (18)

Lightweights

Weight Limit: 135 pounds

Champ: JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ Mexico 50-5-1 (37)

1. **EDWIN VALERO** Venezuela 27-0 (27)
2. **MICHAEL KATSIDIS** Australia 26-2 (21)
3. **ALI FUNEKA** South Africa 30-2-3 (25)
4. **ROLANDO REYES** Mexico 31-4-2 (20)
5. **MIGUEL VAZQUEZ** Mexico 25-3 (12)
6. **ANTHONY PETERSON** Washington, DC 29-0 (19)
7. **PAULUS MOSES** Namibia 25-0 (17)
8. **MIGUEL ACOSTA** Venezuela 26-3-2 (20)
9. **DAVID DIAZ** Chicago, IL 35-2-1 (17)
10. **KEVIN MITCHELL** England 31-0 (23)

Jr. Lightweights

Weight Limit: 130 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **HUMBERTO SOTO** Mexico 50-7-2 (32)
2. **ROBERT GUERRERO** Gilroy, CA 25-1-1 (17)
3. **MZONKE FANA** South Africa 29-4 (12)
4. **ROMAN MARTINEZ** Puerto Rico 23-0-1 (14)
5. **MALCOLM KLASSEN** South Africa 24-5-2 (15)
6. **CASSIUS BALOYI** South Africa 37-4-1 (19)
7. **TAKASHI UCHIYAMA** Japan 14-0 (11)
8. **JUAN CARLOS SALGADO** Mexico 21-1-1 (15)
9. **JORGE LINARES** Venezuela 27-1 (18)
10. **JORGE SOLIS** Mexico 38-2-2 (28)

Jr. Bantamweights

Weight Limit: 115 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **VIC DARCHINYAN** Armenia 33-2-1 (27)
2. **NOBUO NASHIRO** Japan 13-1-1 (8)
3. **SIMPHIWE NONGQAYI** South Africa 16-0 (6)
4. **HUGO CAZARES** Mexico 30-6-2 (22)
5. **ALEXANDER MUNOZ** Venezuela 34-3 (27)
6. **KOHEI KONO** Japan 24-4 (8)
7. **NONITO DONAIRE** Philippines 23-1 (15)
8. **DAIGO NAKAHIRO** Japan 21-2-1 (8)
9. **DRIAN FRANCISCO** Philippines 18-0-1 (14)
10. **JORGE ARCE** Mexico 53-6-1 (40)

Flyweights

Weight Limit: 112 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **KOKI KAMEDA** Japan 22-0 (14)
2. **PONGSAKLEK WONJONGKAM** Thailand 74-3-1 (39)
3. **DAISUKE NAITO** Japan 35-3-3 (22)
4. **DAIKI KAMEDA** Japan 16-2 (11)
5. **DENKAOSAN KAOVICHIT** Thailand 48-2-1 (20)
6. **OMAR NARVAEZ** Argentina 30-0-2 (19)
7. **TAKEFUMI SAKATA** Japan 36-5-2 (17)
8. **MORUTI MTHALANE** South Africa 25-2 (16)
9. **LUIS CONCEPCION** Panama 19-1 (14)
10. **ZOLANI TETE** South Africa 12-0 (11)

Jr. Flyweights

Weight Limit: 108 pounds

Champ: IVAN CALDERON Puerto Rico 33-0-1 (6)

1. **GIOVANNI SEGURA** Mexico 23-1-1 (19)
2. **RODEL MAYOL** Philippines 26-4-1 (20)
3. **CARLOS TAMARA** Colombia 21-4 (15)
4. **EDGAR SOSA** Mexico 37-6 (21)
5. **BRIAN VILORIA** Waipahu, HI 26-3 (15)
6. **ULISES SOLIS** Mexico 29-2-2 (20)
7. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO** Argentina 23-1 (13)
8. **JOHNRIEL CASIMERO** Philippines 14-0 (8)
9. **OMAR NINO** Mexico 28-3-1 (11)
10. **JUANITO RUBILLAR** Philippines 47-13-7 (23)

Strawweights

Weight Limit: 105 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **ROMAN GONZALEZ** Nicaragua 25-0 (21)
2. **OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI** Thailand 33-0 (12)
3. **RAUL GARCIA** Mexico 27-0-1 (16)
4. **NKOSINATHI JOYI** South Africa 20-0 (15)
5. **DONNIE NIETES** Philippines 26-1-3 (15)
6. **FLORANTE CONDES** Philippines 23-5-1 (20)
7. **JUAN PALACIOS** Nicaragua 26-3 (21)
8. **MUHAMMAD RACHMAN** Indonesia 62-8-5 (31)
9. **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA** Japan 23-4 (9)
10. **YASUTAKA KUROKI** Japan 22-3-1 (14)

By Jeff Ryan

Try It A Different Way

With Floyd Mayweather vs. Manny Pacquiao unfortunately shelved for the time being, "Pretty Boy" has come up with a Plan "B" that's absolutely Grade "A," we must admit. He's preparing to duke it out with Shane Mosley in a matchup that absolutely obliterates the sloppy seconds "Pac-Man" is offering up in the form of a battle with Joshua Clottey. Mayweather-Mosley is unfolding, of course, only because Sugar Shane agreed to the prefight blood testing that Team Pacquiao found so distasteful and intrusive.

On the topic of steroids, though certainly not suggesting that Mayweather use them to get the job done, allow me to nonetheless demand that he do some serious performance-enhancing when he marches out of his corner at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas on May 1. "Money" may boast an undefeated record, have a lock on Canastota, and own more belts than a Men's Wearhouse, but he's not someone who can say, "I've got nothing left to prove," and pass a polygraph while doing so.

That's because Mayweather, a dude who is so full of passion, color, and bombast when he's co-starring in a reality show or staring down a microphone (In February, he compared his insistence on tougher prefight drug testing to Martin Luther King and Malcolm X boldly taking a stand.), is disappointingly technocratic on the battlefield. He's a lean,

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Will Mayweather fight like a lion or a pussycat against Mosley?

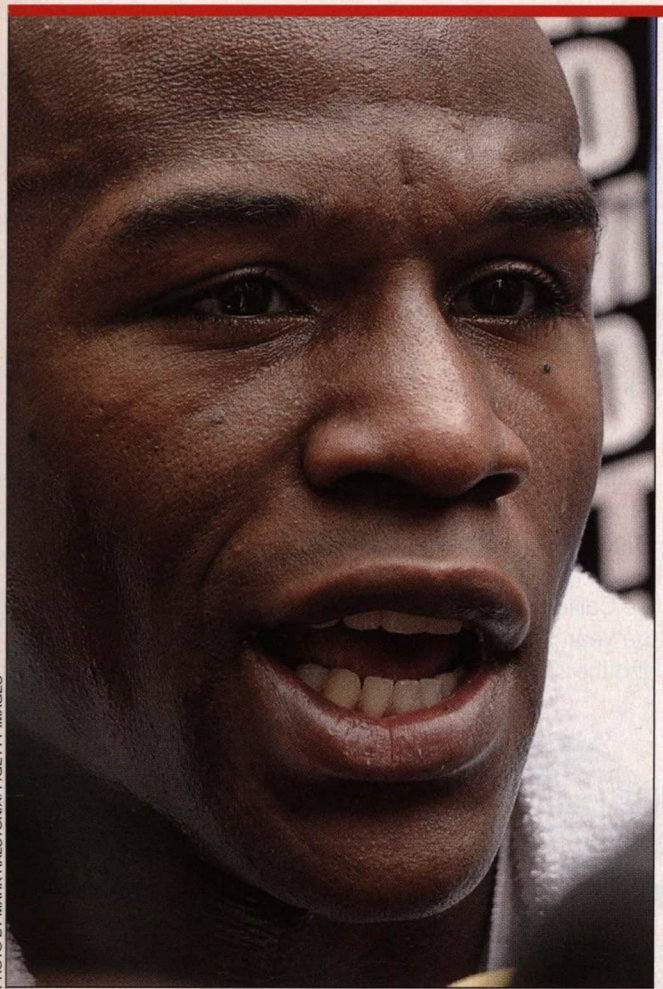


PHOTO BY MARK RALSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Less talk and more punching would be a good idea

not-so-mean fighting machine who dominates his rivals yet leaves even many of his biggest supporters feeling more unfulfilled than Chris Arreola in a vegetarian food court.

At a time when he should be erasing every last microscopic trace of doubt about his greatness, Mayweather chooses to put on a fireworks display with sparklers and bottle-rockets, never fully showing off his repertoire of cloud-reaching, window-rattling pyrotechnics. Four of his last five outings have gone the distance. And the one that didn't, a 10th-round kayo of Ricky Hatton in 2007 via a gorgeous left hook, wasn't the result of a determined assassin on a mission. The overmatched Hatton simply had the misfortune of getting his jaw in the way of what Mayweather later described as a "check hook."

In Mosley, Mayweather will be facing a superb boxer-puncher (albeit one who's 38) who can turn a rival's midsection into a fine powder and is coming off a hugely impressive upset knockout of Antonio Margarito. Mosley is quick and intelligent, and he's never been stopped in 51 pro bouts. Sure, it might be asking a lot for Pretty Boy to kayo an opponent who has withstood the heavy artillery of Oscar De La Hoya, Ricardo Mayorga, Vernon Forrest, Fernando Vargas, and Miguel Cotto. But here's what's not too much to ask of Mayweather: That he *tries* to knock Mosley out, for heaven's sake.

Hey, Floyd, get in there and get your uniform dirty! Your fights have become too predictable: Use the jab to establish control early, punish enemy offensives with blistering counter combinations, feint, duck, slip, slide, and never take chances. Then listen to a one-sided reading of the scorecards, take a bow, and cash a big check. Rinse and repeat.

Imagine if the 33-year-old Mayweather was to fight as long as Bernard Hopkins has while maintaining the same defensive skills. (It's not a stretch to envision that. Just look at how Hopkins has done it.) We're talking *12 more years* of winning decisions. Yikes! Mayweather could single-handedly turn us into curling fans.

Now, it normally goes against my nature to criticize a winning strategy, no matter how boring or weak-kneed it might be. Hockey's New Jersey Devils were fond of the Neutral Zone Trap, a tactic that stymied the offensive flow of the game, but helped win them the Stanley Cup. So who could argue with success? Before college basketball embraced the shot clock, teams sometimes went into the " Four Corners ," passing the ball around for minutes at a time without shooting in order to limit the opponent's scoring opportunities. Hey, that worked too. And what worked to end Pete Rose's 44-game hitting streak in 1978 was Atlanta Braves pitcher Gene Garber throwing Rose a bunch of changeups. When Rose whined afterward that he should have been challenged with fastballs, yours truly was quick to call him a crybaby and point out that he was beaten "fair and square."

So why the reluctance to simply accept that this is the way Mayweather wins? Because boxing is different. In other sports, the end justifies the means. All that matters is *that* you won, not *how* you won. In boxing, though, where so many competitors get to call themselves "champions," history looks fondly on those who *entertained* while compiling their Ws. The defense and movement of a young Muhammad Ali was indeed incredible, but it was that escapism combined with blinding punching speed and power that made him a sensation.

In his prime, Pernell Whitaker looked like he might have been one of the 10-best boxers who'd ever lived. Heck, the guy rarely even lost a round! But his offense thrilled no one and today, though he's a Hall of Famer, he no doubt rates lower than he should on many experts' list of the greats because no one remembers him winning spectacularly or possessing a killer instinct. Why did Pacquiao eventually surpass Mayweather in the pound-for-pound ratings and the hearts of boxing fans? In large part because Pac-Man is an exciting finisher. He punishes and stops the foes *he's* dominating.

No one is suggesting that Mayweather turn into Ray Mancini, swinging away wildly while leaving his face as exposed as a swimsuit model's tush. He's not being asked to curb his defense, just ramp up his offense. Yes, he's still got something to prove, and Mosley's chin could be the proving ground *if* Mayweather thinks of it in that way.

Just remember, Floyd, pitching a shutout excites more people in baseball than it does in boxing. And a feint never made a groupie faint. ■

By Ivan Goldman

Can "Underpants Bomber" Revive Margarito's Career?

In yet another bizarre twist in his continuing saga of outrage and disgrace, integrity-challenged Antonio Margarito may hire "Underpants Bomber" Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab as his new hand-wrapper, said a well-placed source.

Abdulmutallab "has lots to learn about boxing, but he knows plenty about concealing lethal materials," said my source, who's close to Margarito's wily promoter, Bob Arum. "Javier Capetillo was a good man with plaster of Paris, but after all, he eventually got caught. Antonio figures this Abdulmutallab is a fresh new face with fresh ideas."

After getting over the shock, I was impressed my source could pronounce Abdulmutallab's name. I asked about the language barrier.

"Believe me, Umar and Antonio speak the same language. Their personal chemistry is just so inspiring," the source said, shedding a crocodile tear. "They're like bacon and eggs, traffic and weather, ice cream and … " Okay already. We get it.

I know. I thought it was crazy too. How could any commission stand for this? Besides, the underpants guy is in the slammer.

"You're so naïve," the source said. "Once we get Antonio back in the ring, we'll prove there are no rules. The rest is a snap. Antonio and the Underpants Bomber, they got in with the wrong crowd for a while, but everything's cool now. Besides, this could sell a lot of tickets."

Maybe he's right. Maybe I'm just an old-fashioned nut for believing any fighter caught with building materials concealed in his wraps—as was Margarito before he went out last year in Los Angeles to be tenderized by Sugar Shane Mosley—should be banned for life. But Arum began finagling to get his pet weasel re-licensed as soon as the California Commission suspended him in 2009, and now the year is up, the fix is in, the money talks, the dogs bark, and the caravan moves on … Or does it? Texas, staggered

Margarito's Texas license bid stalls

PHOTO BY JEFF ZELEVANSKY/GETTY IMAGES

Arum still fighting to get Margarito reinstated

PHOTO BY RAY KASPROWICZ/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

by the stench, stalled a decision on Margarito's license application, forcing Arum to remove his plaster-assisted pugilist from the undercard of Mannny Pacquiao-Joshua Clottey at Cowboys Stadium and take his act somewhere downwind.

Even the mob that ran boxing back in the bad old days would probably concede that a fighter caught with loaded gloves is finished. But Arum, a Harvard Law grad, is no nickel-and-dime promoter. He plays his angles with the same rapacious chutzpah as the banks too big to fail. If he has the power to ram an atrocity through the system, who cares what's fair or how much it damages the sport? He's even talking about matching Sneak-a-Rito with Manny Pacquiao, whom he also promotes. Promoter Gary Shaw, not a stickler for decency either, wants to match his Alfredo Angulo against Margarito.

Yes, I was pulling your leg about the Underpants Bomber. But Arum knows many ways to skin a cat, and Margarito is still out there itching to pick up more purses. The California Commission paved the way for his return a year ago when it rapped him on the knuckles and walked away. It was even too dumb to withhold his purse.

At the California hearing last year, state Deputy Attorney General Karen Chappelle tried to submit photographic evidence that Margarito wore loaded gloves when he battered brave Miguel Cotto in Las Vegas, but the commission refused to look at it. She maintains that if Margarito wants to be licensed anywhere in the U.S., he should come through California first. Presumably she'd take another shot at presenting her evidence.

The Association of Boxing Commissions said that Texas, and presumably any other commission in the U.S., shouldn't act on Margarito's bid for a license without a hearing first, but that was an opinion, not a mandatory ruling, and it gave Arum the opportunity to avoid Chappelle and cherry-pick among commissions whose scruples match his. If he has to, he'll slip his weasel onto a card in Mexico while he sets up another caper in some desperate corner of the U.S.

It's difficult to find a pro fighter who believes Margarito's ridiculous tale that he was unaware his wraps were loaded. Arum's ruthless campaign fueled by falsehoods and greed is dragging boxing deeper into vile, uncharted waters. If an NHL player, for example, were caught bringing a hidden weapon onto the ice, it's hard to imagine any outcome other than lifetime expulsion.

But Texas' hesitation was heartening. If Margarito's contests are banished to Podunk, and if HBO and Showtime show some decency and refuse to put a camera on him, Arum loses. This fight for the soul of boxing ain't over yet.

Breaking It Down: Sugar Shane Mosley looked polished and extra dangerous when he lost to Miguel Cotto in 2007. His next contest with Ricardo Mayorga was a stinker until he caught Mayorga in the 12th. Mosley looked great in his last outing against Margarito, but he was matched against an exposed fake whose secret, illegal weapons had been snatched away in the dressing room thanks to Mosley's alert trainer, Naazim Richardson.

Floyd Mayweather's safety-first style can be annoying, but he's a virtuoso who hasn't had a bad outing since his first match against Jose Luis Castillo in April 2002. That fight was much closer than the judges saw it. One of them was Jerry

Roth (check out Magoos below). Roth was brought back to score it for Mayweather in his split decision over De La Hoya. That was close too, but competing at junior middleweight, Mayweather was way out of his weight class.

Although people whose opinions I respect smell a kayo, I think Mayweather's too slick and Mosley's too tough for that to happen. And if there's a decision, it's also difficult to envision anything other than a Mayweather decision (particularly if they drag Roth out of the box again). With this much talent inside the ring, we will see impressive moments, but there probably won't be enough of them. Hope I'm wrong about that.

Futch: To Showtime for sending an entire crew down to Monterrey, Mexico, for a fine card topped by a fight we needed to see, Edwin Valero's remarkable one-sided victory over talented Antonio DeMarco. *Wow!*

I'd hoped this would be a candidate for Fight of the Year, but Valero was just too deadly to make that happen. That elbow that opened up Valero's forehead was like the cutting edge of a shovel, but Valero treated it like a bug bite. Nico Robledo, who fought at junior feather in the 1990s, told me Valero looked like the kind of guy you wouldn't want to jump out of the trees while you're traveling through the Amazon Rainforest. "I noticed before the fight," he said, "that DeMarco was smiling and kissing his baby, and you could see Valero was focused on what he had to do."

Ultra-Magoos One & Two: The controversy over the split decision for Kazakhstan's Beibut Shumenov over Spain's Gabriel Campillo in their light heavyweight

Valero celebrates remarkable performance against DeMarco

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

12-rounder in Las Vegas was caused by an honest difference of opinion—between people who know how to score a fight and people who scored it for Shumenov.

Quick, tricky Campillo figured out and dominated his slow, artless opponent after the first couple rounds. Then he consistently made him miss and made him pay with slick combinations for which the determined, but outclassed, Shumenov had no answer. Shumenov also telegraphed his shots with karate grunts a split second before he launched them. Not very cagey.

Let's assume judges Patricia Jarman Morse, and Jerry Roth, who had it 117-111 and 115-113, respectively, for

Mosley will find Mayweather a much tougher target than Margarito

PHOTO BY TOM HOGAN/GOLDEN BOY PROMOTIONS

Incompetent judges failed to give Ouma credit

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Shumenov, are honest and that their wretched scores were caused by mere incompetence. After all, we have no hard evidence to prove otherwise. Therefore it makes sense to just bar them for dozens of years apiece. Levi Martinez, who scored it 117-111 for Campillo, was on the mark.

Magoos Three, Four & Five: Top Rank's Vanes "The Nightmare" Martirosyan is the real deal. And the better-known Kassim Ouma is on the proverbial downhill slide fighters must inevitably suffer unless they retire at the top, which Ouma didn't. At least that was the conventional wisdom. As it turned out, Martirosyan has heart and talent but, not enough to roll over experienced, difficult Ouma, who at age 31, wasn't ready to be pensioned off.

It was a grueling test of wills, with Ouma backing up Martirosyan much of the night but running into plenty of hard shots from a determined Armenian. Top Rank's new series on Fox Sports came out of the gate with a fine contest and lopsided scores for the house fighter. Magoos to Dave Moretti and C.J. Ross, who scored it 97-93 for Martirosyan, and of course to Dick Hauck who saw it an even crazier 97-92. The fight was close. That's why the skilled Fox team of Barry Tompkins and Rich Marotta saw it respectively as a draw and for Ouma by one point.

Loony Decisions: They seem to be proliferating. Money and power speak louder in this tough economy. Nowhere is that more true than in Las Vegas, where officials earned all five Magoos this month in two alphabet title bouts on two separate cards. The number of visitors is down 10 percent, and the town is desperate to attract conventions, fight cards, etc. The town fathers are only dimly aware that boxing is a sport as well as a business, and everyone figures younger fighters getting a big push from their promoters are more likely to bring big-money fights in the future.

Also, judges can be behind in their car payments too, and they earn fatter paychecks for title bouts. Those checks are written by promoters who can turn thumbs up or down on the next roster of officials. You think some of those promoters don't keep quiet little lists?

Return: Anyone ever see a better-looking TV guy than *ShoBox*'s Nick Charles back from five months of cancer treatment? Not likely. ■

Ivan Goldman's latest novel,* Exit Blue, *is published by Black Heron Press.

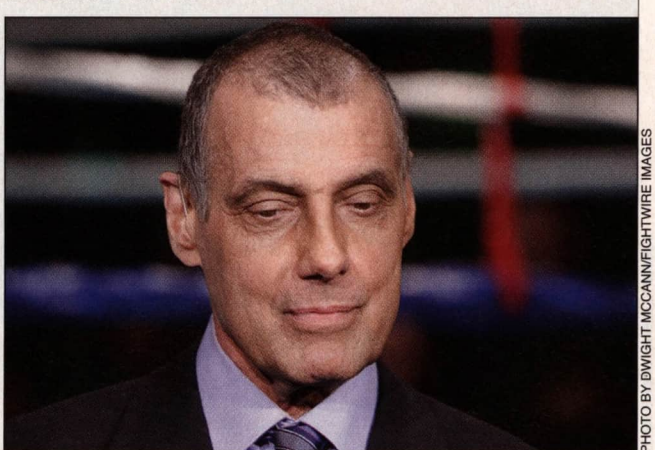


PHOTO BY DWIGHT MCCANN/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Charles returns to* ShoBox *following battle with cancer

[Camera Clicks]

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA/TOP RANK

"Come on, Manny, pull my finger, it'll be funny, I promise!" The current pound-for-pound king, Manny Pacquiao, and the pound-for-pound king of 20 years ago, Julio Cesar Chavez, enjoy a hearty laugh at ringside during February's "Pinoy Power" pay-per-view from Las Vegas. For the record, this photo marks the first time a great Mexican fighter has ever been spotted smiling, rather than trembling, in Pacquiao's presence.

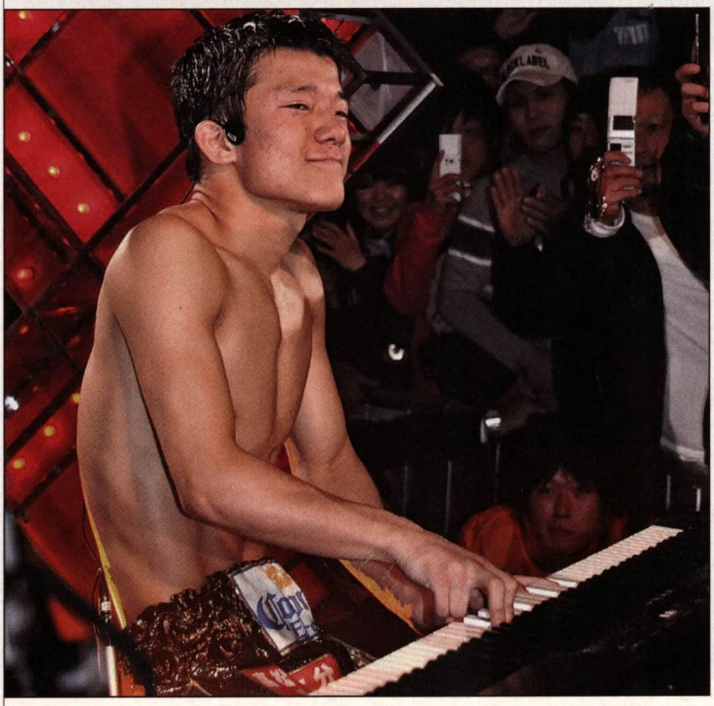


PHOTO BY SANKEI VIA GETTY IMAGES

How does that song go? Ah yes: "Sing us a song, you're the WBA flyweight titlist, sing us a song tonight." After beating Denkaosan Kaovichit to claim an alphabet belt in what was reportedly a sloppy, ugly fight, Daiki Kameda made a more successful attempt at entertaining the crowd by pounding out a ditty on the keyboard. The Kameda brothers, Daiki and Koki, are among Japan's most popular athletes, and we guess this must be why—since it sure isn't the excitement they provide in the ring.

Once, when he was a kid, Anthony McDavitt stepped on a crack in the sidewalk, made this funny face, and it froze this way. Even though he's now a one-eyed, dangling-tongued, cauliflower-eared freak, McDavitt is off the schneid as a pro fighter, having evened his record up at 1-1 with a four-round majority decision over Javier Romero in Santa Ynez, California, in February.

PHOTO BY DWIGHT MCCANN/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA/TOP RANK

The once-proud football tradition of the Notre Dame Fighting Irish hasn't been proud in about 15 years, so the school is turning to a new tradition: producing professional boxers. First Tommy Zbikowski created a stir by having a pro fight while still on the Notre Dame football team, and now Mike Lee, a Chicago Golden Gloves champion, is going pro under the Top Rank banner. As long as he doesn't have Charlie Weis advising him on strategy, Lee should be just fine.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA/TOP RANK

Having recently received word that competitive hopscotch will be a part of the 2012 Olympics, Nonito Donaire was hard at work preparing in February, doing three-a-day workouts to perfect his hopping technique. Hey, if curling is an Olympic sport, why can't hopscotch be also?

WHAT MAKES MANNY RUN?

An Inside Look At Pacquiao's Controversial Political Ambitions

By Ted Lerner

To fully understand the true extent of Manny Pacquiao's extremely rarefied and exalted position in the psyche of Filipinos, one only needs to know this: If he never did another thing for the rest of his life, Filipinos would exalt Manny Pacquiao to his dying days as if he were some kind of god.

The never-ending accolades, the bragging and bravado of a normally polite and sweet people are all a manifestation of Filipinos experiencing something completely new in their midst—one of their own is a worldwide sporting phenomenon.

Never in the history of the Philippines has any Filipino athlete even come close to reaching worldwide-sensation status. Pacquiao is something the often downtrodden and fatalistic Filipino aspires to be but could never be. He is the one and only true Filipino warrior, a treasure they've never experienced before and will probably never see again. He has literally kicked ass on behalf of the entire Filipino nation and taken everyone, even the lowest of the low, along for the ride. For that they love him beyond their wildest imaginations.

But Pacquiao is clearly not content with having achieved more than any of his countrymen could ever dream of accomplishing. He wants more. A lot more. Of course, this lust for life and for doing 10 things at once are very much a part of Pacquiao's fascinating charm and persona. But one passion in particular is causing consternation amongst his fans worldwide and at home in the Philippines. Pacquiao wants to become a politician. And he's not waiting until he's older and wiser to pursue this latest ambition. In May, Pacquiao will enter the down-and-dirty ring of Philippine politics for a second crack at a seat in the Philippine congress.

In 2007, without a shred of political experience, he ran for a congressional seat in the district of his hometown, General Santos City, on the large southern Philippine island of Mindanao. After reportedly spending more than $4-million, he was summarily crushed by a well-entrenched incumbent, helped by Pacquiao's very own constituents, who voted against him because they didn't want their boxing hero lost to the stinking world of politics.

Apparently, though, Pacquiao, who has a taste for victory, didn't take the loss too well. So now, despite the pleas of almost every Filipino and even many of his close friends, he will try again to win a congressional seat, this time in a neighboring district.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA/TOP RANK

Unfortunately for Pacquiao, he will be up against another firmly established family with bundles of their own cash to spend on keeping their seat. Once again, it appears that Pacquiao will be spending millions of dollars on a result that is far from guaranteed. But in the unpredictable world of Philippine politics, where money talks very loud and an unsophisticated electorate has often times picked celebrity over substance, anything is possible.

It's a scenario that has people far and wide shaking their heads and asking the inevitable: Why would a man who has reached heights never before seen by any of his countrymen, who could have just about anything he wants, who is treated as if he were a living and breathing Philippine god, wish to reduce himself to just another politician groveling for votes, especially while still in the throes of his extraordinary career?

For boxing fans around the world, this is a legitimate concern that can only have a happy ending if Pacquiao loses his election bid. It's perhaps a selfish concern, but who can blame us? Pacquiao is the fighter of our dreams, a humble man who always comes to fight with reckless abandon, always versus the best competition, always kicking some serious butt—and always with a polite smile and good word for everyone.

With Pacquiao we are having our cake and eating it too. Is this whirling dervish of a fighting phenomenon really going to leave us now for the world of public policy making?

PHOTO BY JEOFFREY MAITEM/GETTY IMAGES

Pacquiao poses with other political aspirants after filing their certificates of candidacy in Alabel, Philippines. Pac-Man is hoping to secure a seat as a congressman in the province Sarangani.

PHOTO BY PAUL BERNALDEZ

Pacquiao addresses his supporters from the balcony of Alabel Municipal Hall. Note that he is wearing a wrist brace on his right hand and that his ear is bandaged—two souvenirs of his TKO victory over Miguel Cotto, which took place just a week before this photo was taken.

For leave us he surely will, more likely sooner rather than later if he wins the election. No matter that Pacquiao has said he can continue fighting if he wins. The distractions, the concerns and hangers-on he deals with now will surely pale should he become a congressman. And literally thousands more distractions cannot be the ideal recipe for fighting on Pacquiao's rarefied level. Thus, we can be fairly certain that if Pacquiao wins his bid for a seat in the Philippine Congress in May, we will be seeing the last of him in the ring soon after. No matter how many Filipinos Bob Arum tries to groom to take his place, we know that a Manny Pacquiao comes around once in a lifetime—if you're lucky.

You won't find any easy answers from Filipinos as to why Pacquiao is running. The phrase "Congressman Pacquiao" may have a certain ring to Pacquiao, but the very thought of it sends most Filipinos into fits, with some even starting online petitions begging their hero to stay away from the blatant cesspool of Philippine politics, lest he be dragged into it and his good name be tarnished forever. Even his closest aides and friends have tried to convince him not to enter politics.

"Everybody who loves him tells him not to be a politician," said Pacquiao's longtime advisor Wakee Salud. "He always says, 'This is what I want. I want a challenge.' He said he wants to help the poor. He can't be stopped."

Nobody would deny that Pacquiao's intentions are pure. Indeed after every fight, hundreds of poor people line up outside Pacquiao's mansion in General Santos City for handouts of food and money, given oftentimes by Pacquiao himself. During last year's devastating typhoon and floods in Manila, Pacquiao braved bad weather and motored down from his mountain training camp to hand out relief supplies. Before the recent "Pinoy Power" fight card in Las Vegas, Pacquiao got up and announced he was creating a fund to help seriously injured Filipino boxer Z Gorres with his rehabilitation.

"He is magnanimous, a certified, big-hearted champ" said long-time boxing man and political insider Hermie Rivera, who has advised Pacquiao on occasion. "He's always ready to lend his unselfish hand to the needy."

Jaded and cynical after decades of some of the dirtiest and most corrupt governments in the world, Filipinos, though, are understandably wary of politics and politicians. Philippine politics is also an extremely dirty and violent game. In the last election, hundreds were killed in politically related violence throughout the country. Just a few months back, election related violence resulted in a horrible massacre of 57 people in a province less than 60 miles from Pacquiao's province.

None of these concerns, however, have given Pacquiao the slightest pause. He continues to insist that he truly wants to help his country and feels that being an elected official will provide him the platform to do more than he could as a boxing celebrity.

"The reason I am running for Congress is that my town needs somebody who can bring in more economic opportunities for my people," Pacquiao told reporters a week after defeating Miguel Cotto. "Because I am fortunate enough to be fa-

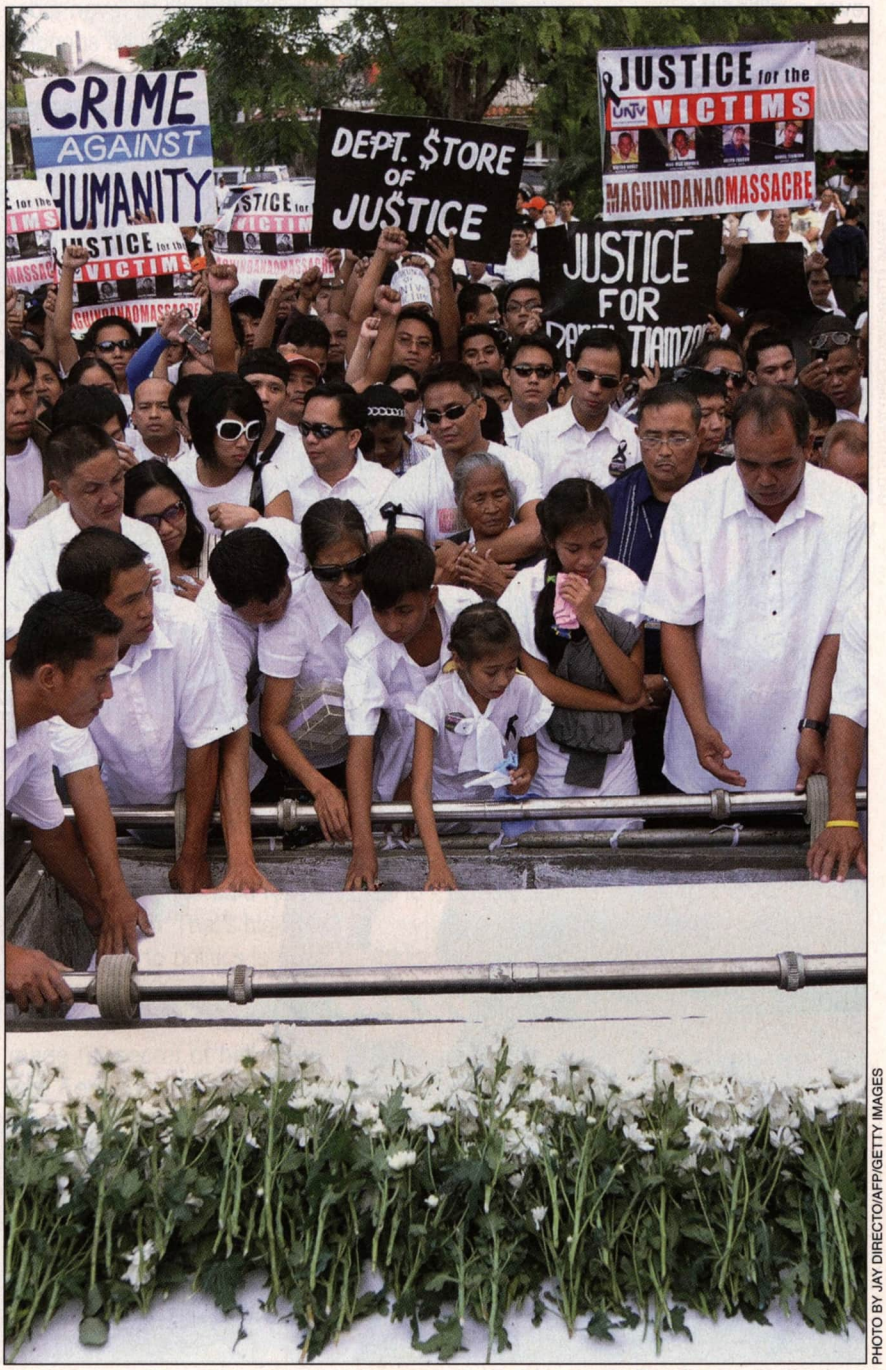


PHOTO BY JAY DIRECTO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Relatives and supporters bury the remains of UNTV journalist Daniel Tiamzon who was one of the 57 people murdered in the pre-election massacre in Maguindano province in the southern Philippines.

mous, perhaps as a congressman I can attract bigger businesses to our area and provide us more revenues."

That explanation would seem fair enough. But many other Pacquiao fans have pointed out that Pacquiao's desires to help reflect a glaring naiveté that will only result in disaster for their hero. For one, Pacquiao is expected to spend more than $10-million to try and win this time. People wonder why he can't take all that money and put it to better use than trying to get an elective post he's probably not even qualified for.

"There's no need for Manny to run for politics," said Zander Kahn, the mayor of a town in Pacquiao's neighboring province and himself a boxing promoter and manager. "He's already a politician by being a boxing hero. Meaning he has the power to influence politicians to support his goals and projects."

Kahn believes that Pacquiao, who is often seen in the company of politicians, has been an unwitting victim of sycophantic "yes" men who are, for self-serving ends, taking advantage of the boxing hero's fabulous wealth and his penchant for never saying "no" to any pleas for help. Indeed, even aides point out that Pacquiao will be spending millions more dollars this election to help cash-strapped party mates in his area with their own election fights. It's all led to a common concern heard throughout the Filipino community.

"There may be a smear of desire in his heart to extend himself to pure, unselfish service of his country," said an anonymous source who would only speak to THE RING if his identity was not revealed, "but his vision is misplaced. We have to remember that he is around so many hardened politicians, and I am sure they coax him into this line of thinking, whatever their motives may be. Though a man of glorified stature, Manny is a vulnerable person whose politician

PHOTO BY JAY DIRECTO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Philippines President Gloria Arroyo presents Master Sergeant Pacquiao with the Philippine Legion of Honor for Sports. Pacquiao has long had a relationship with the political establishment, many of whom seek his endorsement.

PHOTO BY JAY DIRECTO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Pressing the flesh: Everywhere he goes, Pacquiao is surrounded by fans, most of whom do not want their hero to be involved in the cesspool of Philippine politics. But despite advice from many friends and advisors, Manny is determined to run for election.

supporters are bereft of compunction and use him to their advantage. You can be certain they will continue using him more aggressively if he is elected."

But however distasteful it may appear to some that their all-time Filipino hero would dabble in the grimy world of politics, the widespread disappointment at Pacquiao's political ambitions may, ultimately, be a simple case of people assigning their own hopes and dreams to a man who, despite his lofty accomplishments, is, in the end, still just one of them. Or as the old saying goes: "You can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy."

In the Byzantine world of rural, provincial Philippine society, from which Pacquiao was born and bred, politics, even at the village level, represents power, and power is life itself. Whether deserved or not, politicians of all levels in the Philippines, and especially in far flung provincial communities, are accorded a certain high standing among their less fortunate populaces. As a kid from the streets who didn't get past the sixth grade, Pacquiao would hold a natural respect for the power of political office in the Philippines. To achieve that standing would mean a monumental achievement for him.

"I think the reason he has entered politics is that he wants to prove something, that he can succeed at something other than boxing," said Kahn. "It has to do with his ego. That's his style."

Attraction to politics is not something new for Pacquiao. Well before he became known around the world, Pacquiao had made no secret of his affinity for politics. Ferdie Estrella, a well-known boxing referee in the Philippines and himself a three-time city councilor in the Metro Manila business district of Makati, recalled a story from 10 years ago, just before a big fight at the Araneta Coliseum. A few hours before his main event fight, Pacquiao approached Estrella in the dressing room.

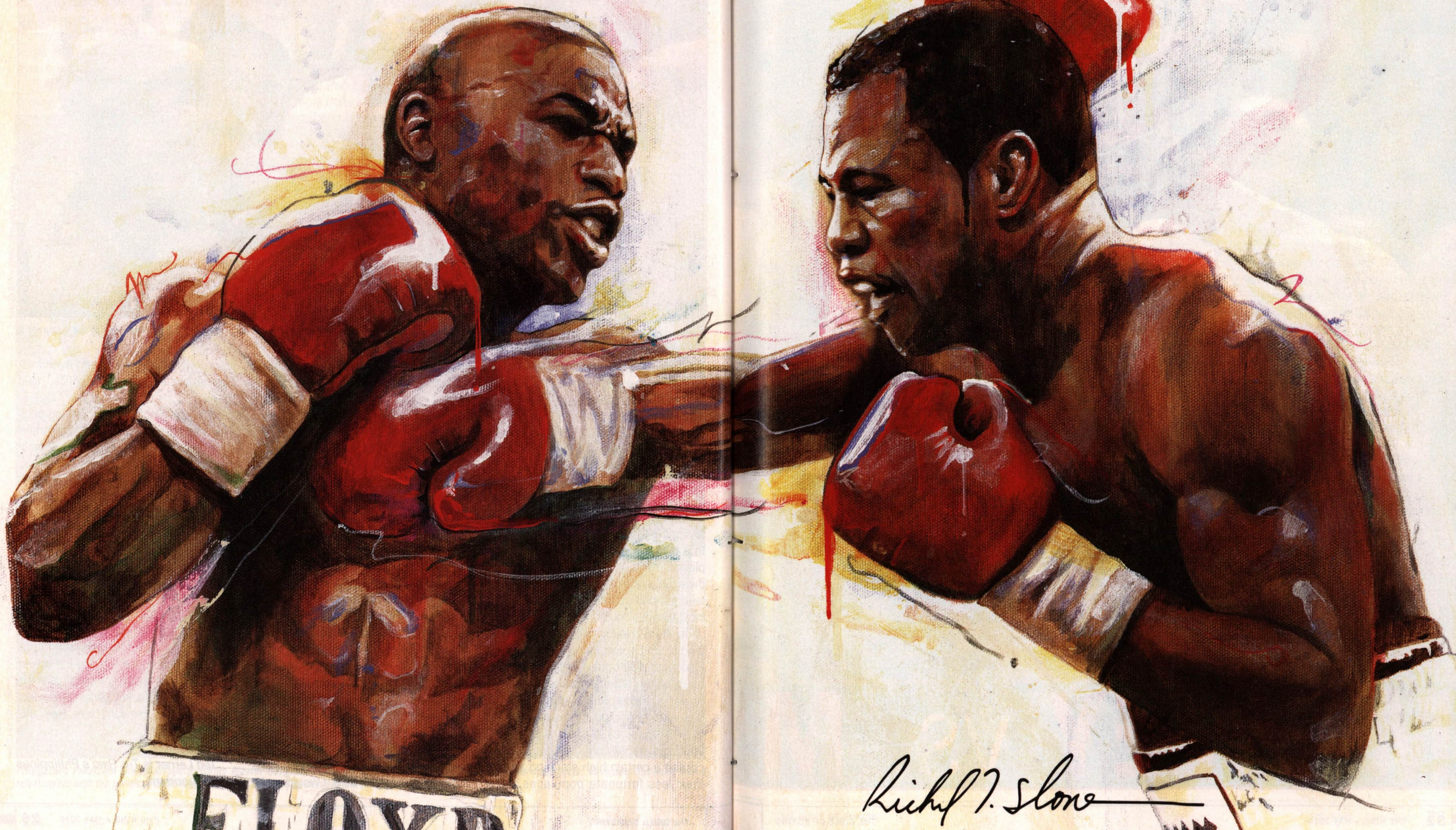
"He came to me and said, 'Hey Kons (councilor), 'do you think I would make a good city councilor?' I knew even then that he was interested in politics," said Estrella.

When he's not relaxing, playing pool, singing, or making movies and commercials, Pacquiao is almost always seen in the company of one politician or another. While it may be true that these politicians may be attaching themselves to him, Pacquiao also clearly likes being around them. He wants to be one of them and he enjoys playing the game. Ultimately, Pacquiao is running for office because, as he sees it, politics is the best path to spread his influence and prepare for his future beyond boxing.

"Manny says he wants to help people," Estrella said. "That may be, but I think also he wants to experience the power that comes with politics. Politicians in the Philippines command a certain power that even money people don't have. He wants a taste of that." ■

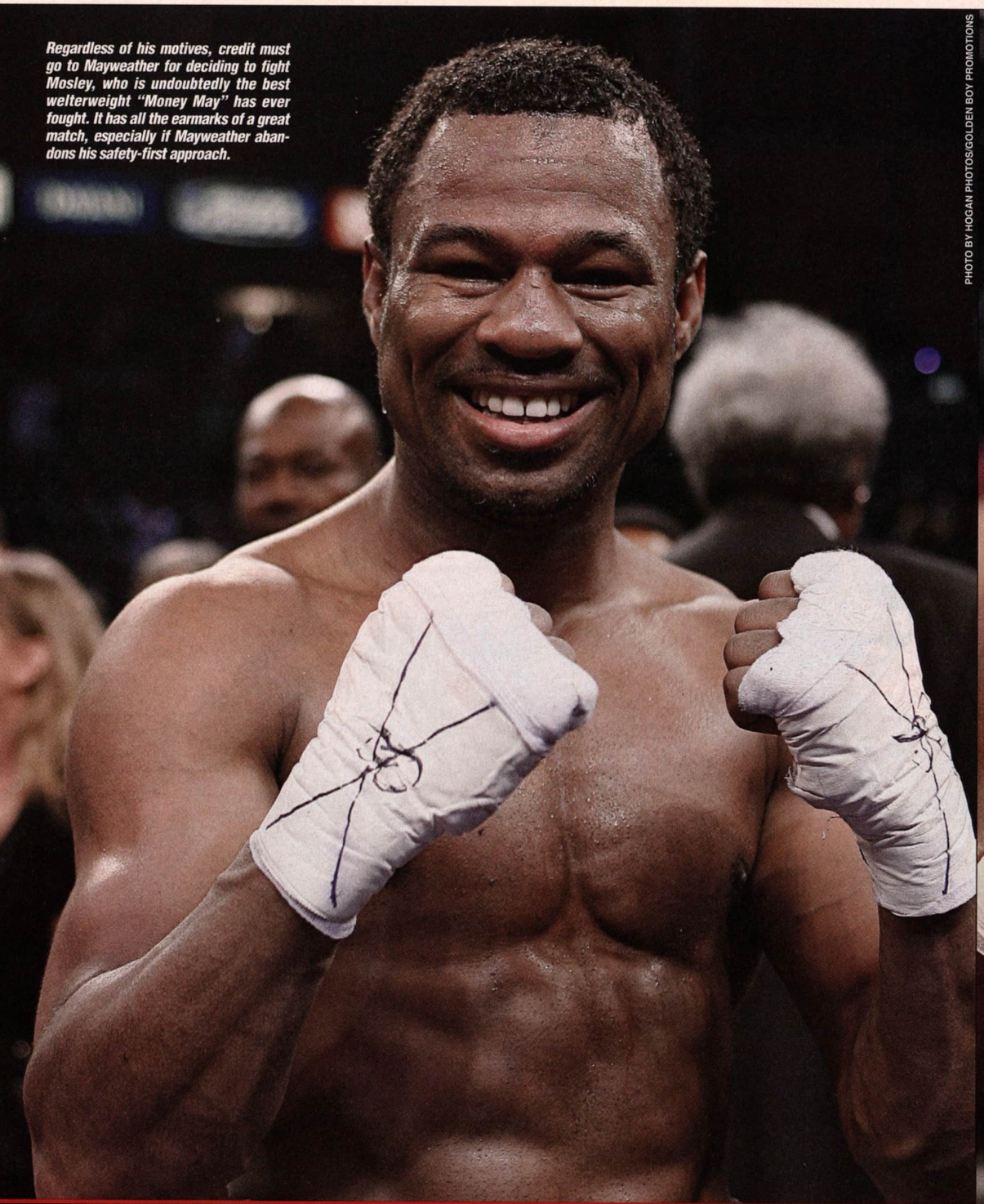
Ted Lerner is THE RING's Philippines correspondent.

MAYWEATHER-MOSLEY PREVIEW SECTION



FLOYD

Richard T. Slone



Regardless of his motives, credit must go to Mayweather for deciding to fight Mosley, who is undoubtedly the best welterweight "Money May" has ever fought. It has all the earmarks of a great match, especially if Mayweather abandons his safety-first approach.

PHOTO BY HOGAN PHOTOS/GOLDEN BOY PROMOTIONS

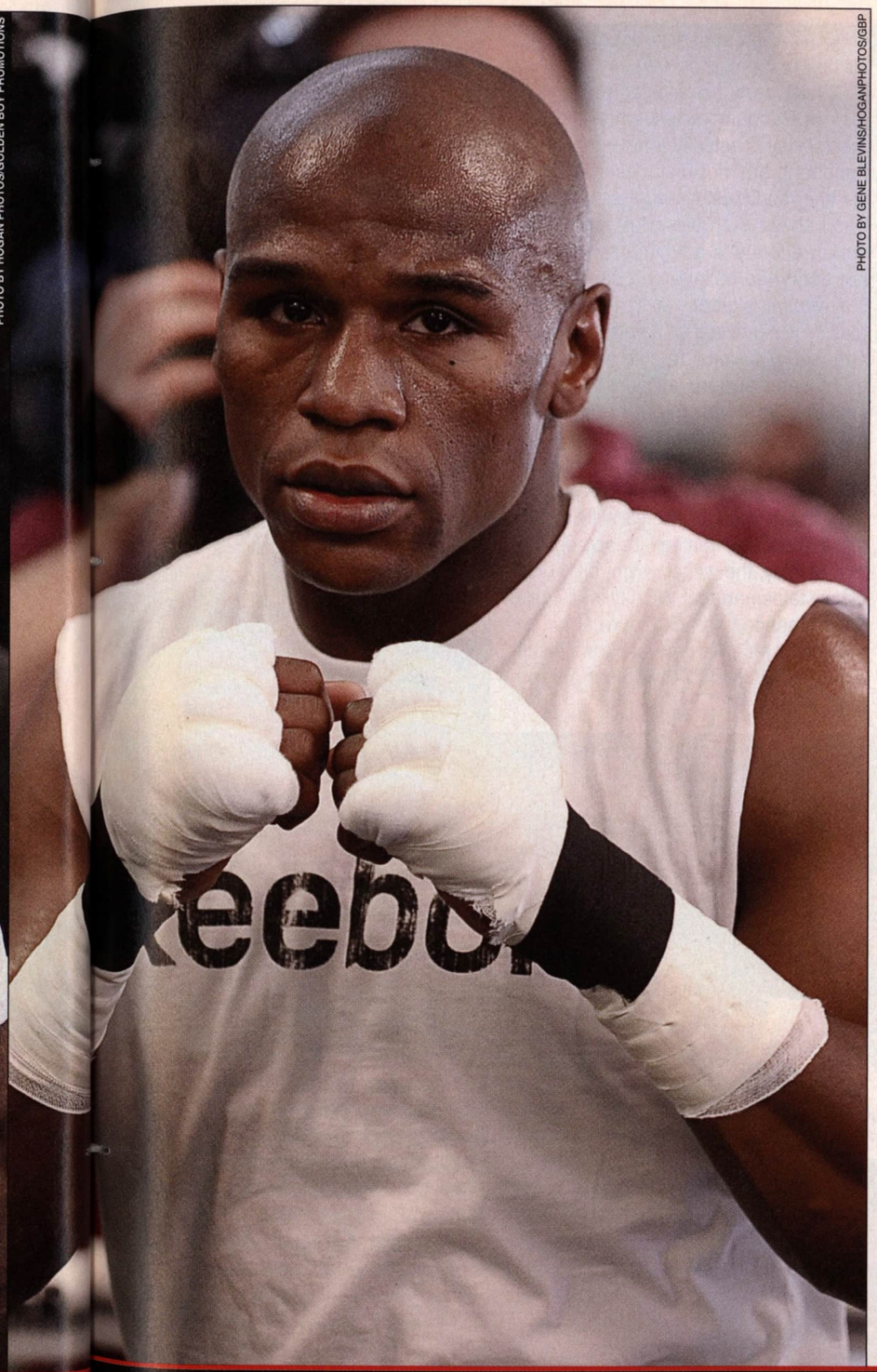


PHOTO BY GENE BLEVINS/HOGANPHOTOS/GBP

MOSLEY VS. MAYWEATHER

What A Great Plan "B"

By Don Stradley

It's funny how a few years can make such a difference on the boxing landscape. Think back to 2008—Floyd Mayweather was enjoying his "retirement," while Shane Mosley, coming off a loss to Miguel Cotto, struggled so much with Ricardo Mayorga that many suggested Mosley should retire too. Yet, here we are in 2010 and Mosley and Mayweather are gearing up for a bout that is being trumpeted as a long-awaited superfight, years in the making.

Hey, we're not suggesting this fight will be anything less than what Golden Boy Promotions has billed it to be, and we'll probably be as thrilled as anyone when the opening bell rings on May 1 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. It's just that seeing this fight take shape is kind of like wanting a BMW 10 years ago, only you couldn't afford it, and now, 10 years later, it mysteriously turns up in your driveway, with a few dings on the fender. Do you turn it down? No. But you'd probably have a lot of questions if an old BMW showed up in your driveway, and there are some questions surrounding Mayweather too.

Then again, maybe we should just shut up and enjoy this one. The timing may be better than we think …

The news broke in late-January and sizzled across the Internet quicker than the latest dancing dog clip on YouTube. You know how it happened: Mosley was supposed to fight Andre Berto, but Berto bowed out after members of his family were killed in the Haiti earthquake. Meanwhile, Mayweather was looking for a new opponent after his blockbuster fight with Manny Pacquiao broke down in a beef over drug testing. Mosley's name was mentioned as a possible replacement for Pacquiao, but no one seriously expected to see Mayweather in the same state as Mosley, never mind the same ring. Mayweather, perhaps unfairly, has a reputation for avoiding risks, and Mosley was still considered a risky offer, especially after he knocked the shine off Antonio Margarito last year.

Cut to February 3: Mayweather signs to fight Mosley, with loud barking coming from his camp about knocking off all the top welterweights, one after another like ducks in a shooting gallery. Mayweather hasn't been compelled to dominate a division in years, but now, apparently, it's his heart's greatest desire.

While many are still lamenting the loss of Pacquiao-Mayweather, some feel Mosley is actually a more intriguing opponent, and not only because Mayweather and Mosley have been talking trash about each other for years. Despite Pacquiao's amazing ascension, not everyone believes he can handle Mayweather's greasy style. Meanwhile, Mosley is perceived as a veteran boxer-puncher with considerable ring intelligence and superb all-around skills, just the type who might crack Mayweather's defense. With cagy trainer du jour Naazim Richardson in his corner, Mosley's chances improve. Also, since Pacquiao is younger, there's still time for him to meet Mayweather. It's appropriate that Mosley, the welterweight division's elder statesman and WBA titlist, is getting a chance to crack Mayweather on the jaw. In fact, Mosley is so formidable one wonders how Mayweather agreed to fight him.

PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Even Mayweather's detractors admit that he is always in superb condition. On the other hand, he has also pulled out of fights due to injuries.

There's no way that Mayweather could have gotten away with fighting another undersized opponent, such as Juan Manuel Marquez, who lost a 12-round decision to Mayweather in September 2009. A top-notch adversary was required, and Sugar Shane fits the bill.

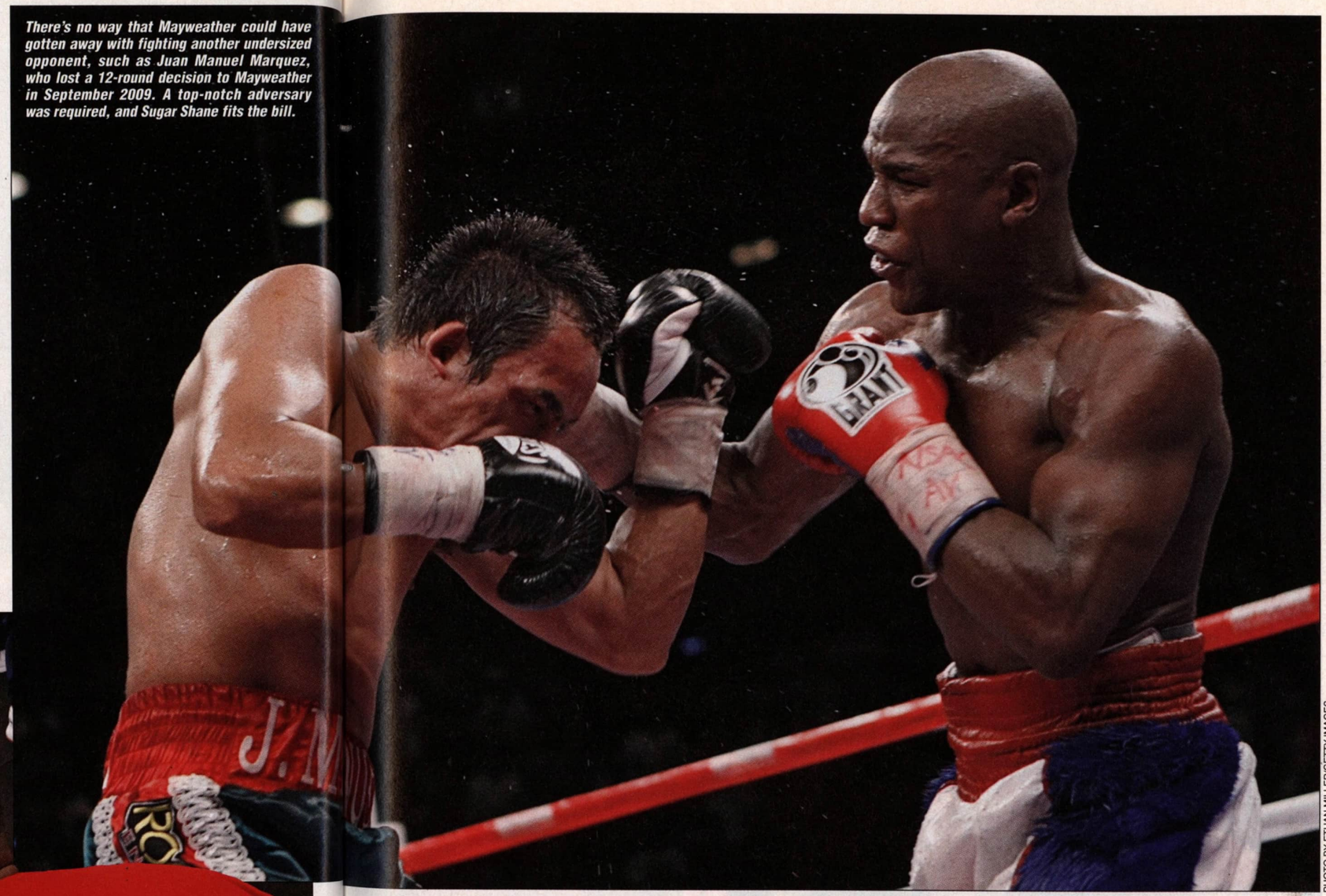


PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

He certainly couldn't fight another Juan Manual Marquez, the lightweight champion who beefed up to welterweight for the opportunity of being Mayweather's first comeback opponent. Not many were thrilled about that one, and when Mayweather blew off the prefight weight agreement and snidely paid the $600,000 penalty for coming in two pounds over, he looked like a jerk and a bully. When he won the bout easily, he heard the negative comments again—with advantages in size, speed, youth, and strength, he merely skated his way to a dull points win.

When the Pacquiao fight fell through, anyone less than a top-level opponent for Mayweather would've drawn more bad press. When names like Matthew Hatton and Nate Campbell were mentioned, we figured Mayweather was sticking to his usual low-risk, high-reward business model. In fact, Mayweather's image is so poor that a fair segment of fans and the media actually suggested Mayweather had never wanted Pacquiao in the first place and had created an escape hatch by calling for stricter drug testing. Golden Boy Promotions' CEO Richard Schaefer told Yahoo!Sports that Floyd will be vindicated by fighting Mosley.

"What this does is, it shuts up all these critics who have called him a coward and all these awful names. Now, they have to eat their words," Schaefer said.

Well, we won't be eating anything just yet. A lot depends on whether Mayweather tries to control the fight from a defensive stance or actually presses the action. There have been times when Mayweather has fought aggressively, but it's usually been against opponents who are hopelessly outclassed. Against elite fighters, Mayweather sticks to his shell defense and pecks out the win. There's a chance that Mayweather will do exactly that against Mosley. Still, just the fact that he's taking on a tough veteran of his own size is encouraging. Mayweather, of course, would deny giving any thought to his critics.

"I live my life for myself and for my family," he told FOXSports.net in

February. "When it's all said and done, the critics aren't gonna come to my house and pay my bills. And I just do what I do."

If he's not listening to the critics, he's at least listening to his accountant.

Mayweather's well-publicized problems with the IRS were probably not solved by the Marquez bout. Chances are the government took a chunk from his earnings, and Mayweather is not out of his financial hole just yet. As much as Mayweather might've relished fighting Rocky Juarez, his high-spending lifestyle won't allow him to take fights that aren't major events. And with HBO tightening their budget, they won't be interested in any old Mayweather fight. It's risk time.

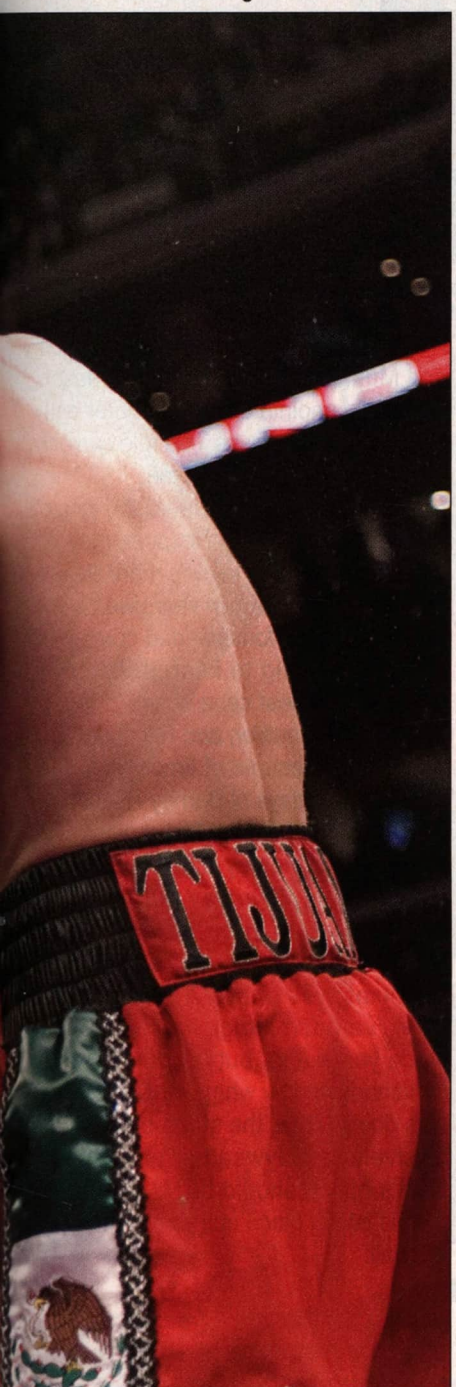
There's also the possibility that Mayweather doesn't see Mosley as a threat. He may see Mosley as a variation on Marquez, a fighter with name value who is a bit past his prime. After all, Mosley is a 38-year-old who has sometimes struggled against sound, technical boxers. Also, Mosley's win over Margarito was hailed as a return to form, but it might also be written off as an anomaly. Margarito has always been a slow, plodding fighter, and was possibly distracted by the prefight mess involving his hand-wraps. It's not an insult to Mosley to suggest his win over Margarito could've been his last great performance, the one all aging fighters seem to pull out of their hat before they're done. Besides, 16 months will have passed by the time Mosley and Mayweather meet. Even Bernard Hopkins, the modern Methuselah of boxing, said recently that long layoffs are tough on an older body.

There were certainly no signs of age when Mosley upset Antonio Margarito. But that was more than a year ago, and it remains to be seen if the lengthy layoff will have an adverse effect on Sugar Shane against Mayweather.

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Mosley's age, however, doesn't prevent him from being perhaps the stiffest challenge Mayweather has ever faced. Being older may actually be to Mosley's advantage, in that there's little he hasn't experienced inside a boxing ring. This fight, though, has us thinking about things other than courage and skill. This fight has a unique subtext, and it's all about the mysterious nature of fame.

Mayweather, 40-0 (25), has managed to create a niche for himself, a niche that has grown greater than any of us could've imagined. It's hard to



HAS MAYWEATHER SET A PRECEDENT?

The news that Mosley has agreed to Mayweather's demand for Olympic-style drug testing is taking boxing into new territory.

"Shane Mosley is one of the greatest fighters of this era and I commend him for not only agreeing to the fight against Mayweather, but also agreeing to participate in a testing process that can only help the integrity of the sport," said Richard Schaefer.

Mayweather mouthpiece Leonard Ellerbe added that Mayweather was, "happy to set the precedent for random blood testing in order to ensure fair and safe contests for all fighters."

Since details were being ironed out as of press time, many of our questions could not be answered.

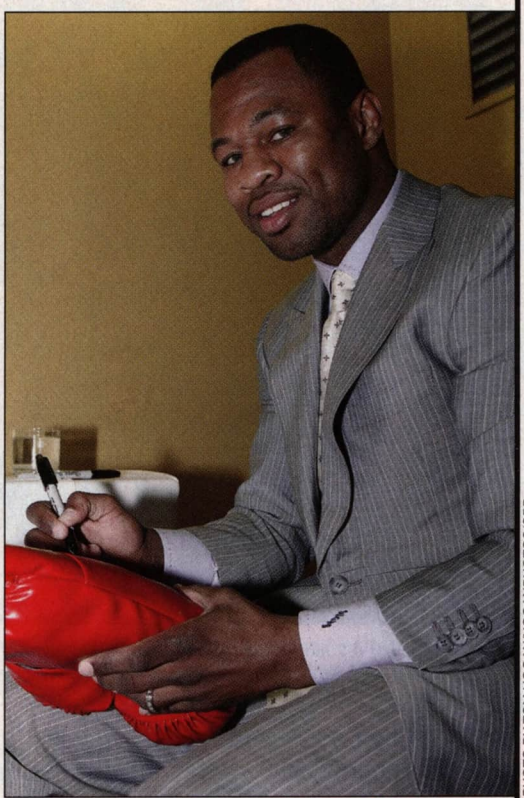


PHOTO BY TOM HOGAN/HOGANPHOTOS/GBP

When Mayweather demanded Olympic-style drug testing, Mosley quickly agreed

For instance, what exactly happens if either fighter fails a test? Is the fight canceled? Or will there simply be fines handed out? Also, can Nevada fine a fighter when the tests aren't being carried out by the NSAC? Would the results be made public right away, or after the bout? What if a fighter tests positive for something that is on the USADA list but not the Nevada list (and vice versa?). Is the USADA test foolproof, anyway?

"There are creams and gels that can be stopped the day before a test and be out of an athlete's system, so unannounced testing is the only way to go," said RING columnist Dr. Margaret Goodman, formerly of the NSAC.

Dr. Goodman also admitted that either fighter could have found something that won't be tested for. Human Growth Hormone, for instance, is still hard to detect.

"It is possible the commission could adopt a 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy regarding some of these things because they are not on their list," said Dr. Goodman. "How can they punish a fighter for something that isn't on their list?"

Nevada commissioner Keith Kizer has insisted there are no major differences between the tests performed in Nevada, versus the testing Mayweather has called for, with the exception of the USADA's strong focus on EPO (which happens to be the endurance drug Mosley confessed to using in 2003).

Mosley's steroid issues have been well documented, and if anyone should submit to extra testing, it's Mosley. Still, Mayweather never called for special drug testing when he was the one rising through the weight classes. Now that he seems to have settled in at one weight, with a pair of tough guys like Pacquiao and Mosley in front of him, he's become preoccupied with making sure everyone is playing fair.

Mayweather should realize that accusers are sometimes busted along with the accused.

—D.S.

PHOTO BY AARON SPRECHER/HOGANPHOTOS/GBP

Mosley feels that his numerous accomplishments have not been fully appreciated and part of the reason has been a lack of mainstream publicity. But that quickly changed after signing to fight Mayweather. Shane is pictured here being interviewed by former NFL star Tiki Barber at the Super Bowl.

recall a fighter as defensive-minded as Mayweather becoming such a big star. How did this pouting, somewhat bi-polar brat become such a big deal? His fights are rarely compelling, yet his pay-per-view numbers are impressive. His persona is a cliché, even by 1990s hip hop video standards, yet the public seems fascinated by him. We call for more aggression, more knockouts, more risk, yet he continues to draw money, which tells us that maybe the public appreciates his style more than the critics do. Maybe it's enough that Mayweather's character, as the producers of HBO's *24/7* have found, is a perfect mirror of the cheap, gaudy times we live in. How he performs during this next chapter of his career, however, will be very important in how the Mayweather story is perceived in the future. That's where Mosley comes in.

For a short time, during the early days of the George W. Bush administration, it looked as if Mosley, 46-5 (39), was on the brink of serious stardom. Instead, he suffered some losses, a steroid scandal, and the realization that his friendly, earthy persona didn't exactly light up the box office, even though he had two wins over Oscar De La Hoya, the era's most commercial figure. By 2005, Mosley's stock had fallen to the point where he was fighting on ESPN or buried deep on the undercard of a middling HBO pay-per-view. That he has positioned himself for a major fight in 2010 is a testament to the dogged nature that lurks behind his schoolboy grin.

Mosley recently told Yahoo!Sports, "The bottom line is I'm the best fighter in the world. I know that. I believe I've proven that." Still, there have to be moments when Mosley wonders, *why am I not on the cover of* Sports Illustrated*? Why wasn't I pegged as the man to save boxing?* Fame, though, is hard to pin down. In their attempts to achieve it, fighters will behave strangely; they'll even reach for needles handed over by strangers who promise them special powers.

But even if Mosley should be more famous than he is and Mayweather is probably more famous than he deserves to be, they have something in common. They each scored victories over De La Hoya and to varying degrees they remained in his shadow.

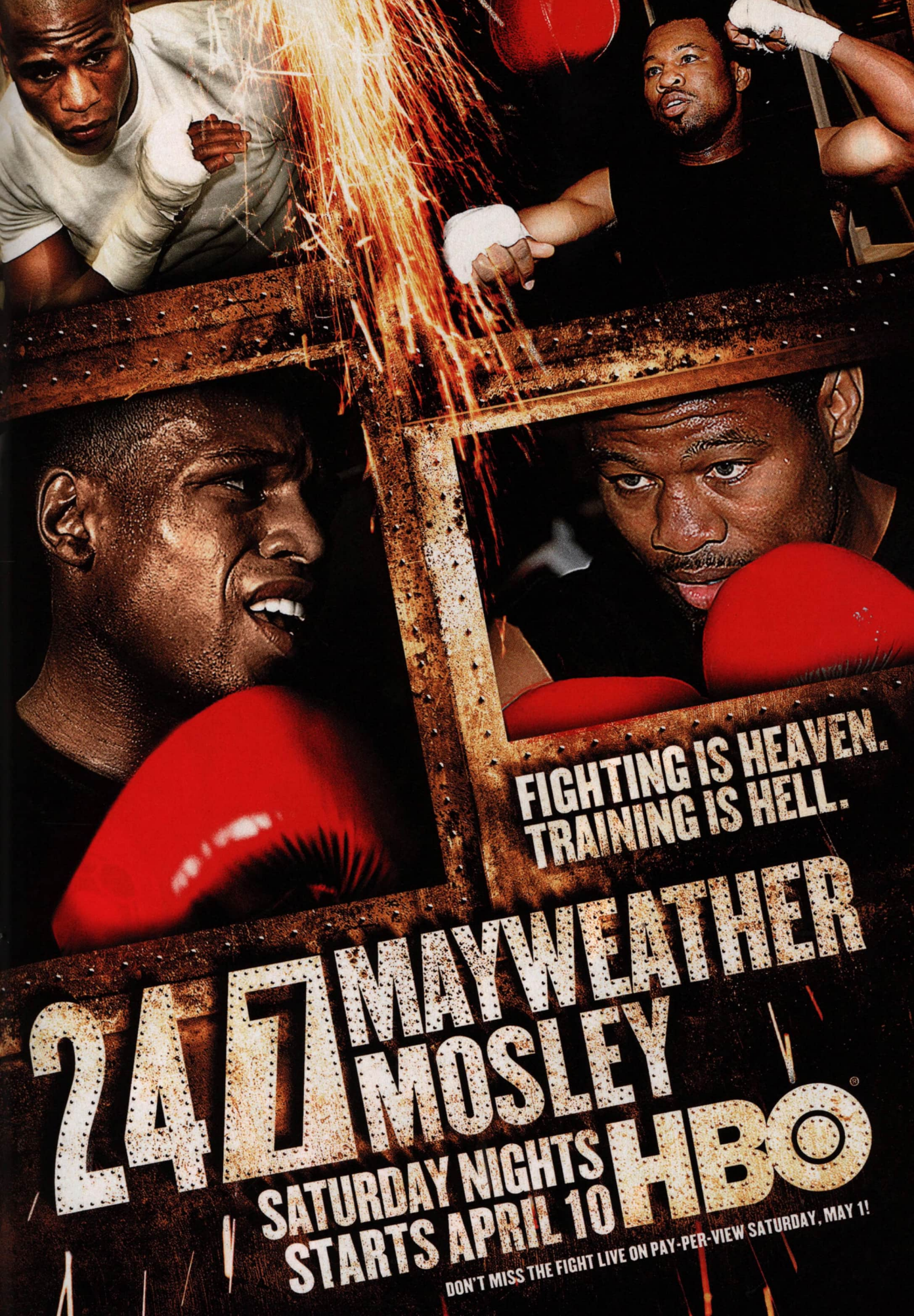
De La Hoya was the game's iconic figurehead for years. He was so popular that even a bunch of losses didn't diminish his appeal. As hard as it is to comprehend Mayweather's success, De La Hoya's outsized popularity was also, at times, hard to understand. (Can you imagine Mayweather losing five fights and still drawing the way he does? It's doubtful, which may be why Mayweather tries so hard to preserve his undefeated record. No one outside of Rocky Marciano's relatives puts as much stock in being undefeated, as does Mayweather.)

Now that De La Hoya's retired, there's been an ongoing question of who will take his place, as if it's a position that can be filled by someone else based on a few good performances or a few successful pay-per-views. The truth is that no one can just step up and take De La Hoya's place, with the possible exception of Pacquiao, mostly because the public tapped into De La Hoya when he was very young, just as it did with others like Ray Leonard, Mike Tyson, and Muhammad Ali. For some reason, the public anoints a certain fighter early and sticks with him, as if people can only focus on one fighter at a time.

The next fighter to create the kind of mania that De La Hoya inspired may still be in the amateurs. What's more likely is that during the next few years we'll see a sort of three- or four-headed committee of fighters trying to keep the public's interest. The best case scenario is that Mosley, Mayweather, and Pacquiao fight each other a couple of times each, like the grand old days of Barney Ross, Tony Canzoneri, and Jimmy McLarnin.

In a way, Mosley and Mayweather are chiseling their way out of the De La Hoya era. With each punch that is thrown on May 1, they will be announcing themselves all over again. This fight would've been intriguing had it taken place years ago, but it would've been overshadowed by whatever De La Hoya was doing. Now, the stage belongs exclusively to Mayweather and Mosley. That's how it should be. It seems this fight is taking place at the right moment, after all. ■

Don Stradley is a freelance writer from Massachusetts and a regular contributor to THE RING.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MOSLEY vs. MAYWEATHER

20 Experts Pick The Winner

Compiled by Joseph Santoliquito

There were times during Shane Mosley's Hall of Fame career that were justifiably shrouded in doubt: In 2002, when he lost back-to-back fights to Vernon Forrest and then again when he lost two consecutive fights to Winky Wright in '04. Moreover, as recent as '07, a lot of people thought "Sugar Shane" was on the decline following a close decision loss to Miguel Cotto.

But after all of the setbacks, Mosley resurrected his career by scoring impressive victories, most recently crushing Antonio Margarito in January 2009. You would think after all the years at or near the top, Mosley would have more believers going into his May 1 showdown with Floyd Mayweather at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada. But that is not the case.

Most Las Vegas oddsmakers are calling Mayweather a 3-to-1 favorite over Mosley, and not many experts polled by THE RING for this article think Sugar Shane has enough left to beat Mayweather. Even so, not too many are predicting Mosley will be completely blown away either.

THE RING's experts have had a penchant for being correct. They predicted overwhelming victories of Manny Pacquiao over Miguel Cotto (Pacquiao 14-6), Pacquiao over Ricky Hatton (Pacquiao, 17-3), and a close fight in Pacquiao-Juan Manuel Marquez II (even 10-10), which it was. But every once in a while, an overwhelming favorite can be misjudged, as when our panel of experts chose Oscar De La Hoya to beat Pacquiao, 18-2. So you never know. Maybe Mosley can defy logic again.

THE RING polled 20 experts from the United States, Europe, and England on what they think will happen when Mosley meets Mayweather. Here is what they had to say:

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Manny Pacquiao (junior welterweight world champion; number-one rated welterweight): "If that fight happens, I think Mosley has a great chance to win. He's a fighter. Mayweather is a boring fighter, but I think Mayweather-Mosley will be a good fight."

Steve Farhood (Showtime boxing analyst): "I like Mayweather on points, and I hate to be predictable, but I'm not picking against Mayweather in any fight that can be made right now, Pacquiao included. Mosley is a severe and very possibly Mayweather's toughest test. Mosley's combination of size, experience, and speed should give Mayweather plenty of problems. But if Cotto can outbox Mosley, which he did in plenty of spots, I don't doubt Mayweather could do the same thing. Mayweather by decision."

Dave Bontempo (HBO color analyst for its European feed): "The difference between Mayweather and Mosley is blinding speed against exceptional speed. Mosley can put a lot of rounds together, but it will be difficult to put 12 rounds together against Mayweather. The only guy I ever saw back Mayweather up was Oscar. He just didn't have a complete 12 rounds in him, and then Mayweather switched another gear and Oscar couldn't get to him. This will be Shane trying to bring the fight to Floyd and Floyd moving and pot shooting him. I see Floyd winning by decision."

Bernard Fernandez (*Philadelphia Daily News* boxing writer): "I was one of the few who said Mayweather was number-one in the pound-for-pound poll. Mayweather isn't as good as he thinks he is, but he's better than just about everyone else out there. It's a very attractive matchup. I wouldn't put it past Shane to reach back in time when he was at his very best. I'm going with Floyd based on the fact he's still undefeated. Floyd will win by decision."

Timothy Bradley (junior welterweight contender): "I'm going to go with Mayweather for this fight. I think Mosley will be in a lot of trouble against a boxer like Mayweather, as opposed to someone who comes slugging at him. Mosley will have to be the aggressor and that's not his style. Mayweather will use movement and pot shot. Mosley has good defense; Mayweather has better defense. I think it will be a boring fight, unless Mosley takes a chance and tries to get him. Mayweather gets the unanimous decision."

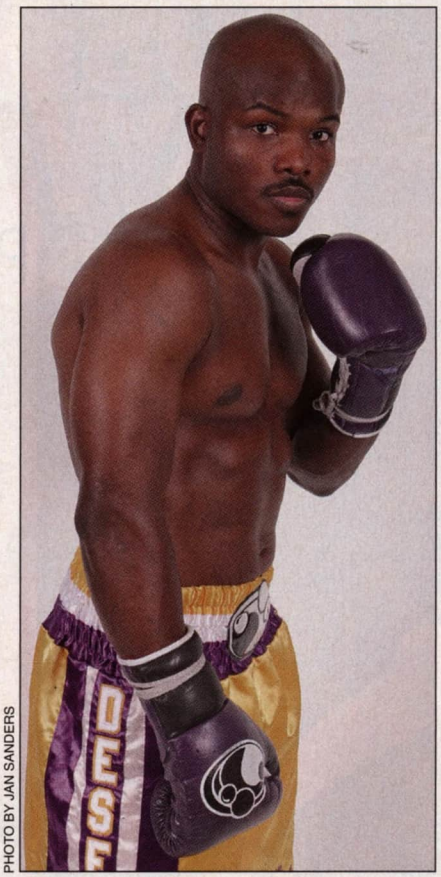

PHOTO BY JAN SANDERS

Tim Bradley, The Ring's number-one junior welterweight contender, is among the many who have picked Mayweather to win a decision, but thinks it will be a boring fight unless Mosley really goes after Mayweather and makes him fight.

Tris Dixon (British *Boxing News* editor): "It's a nice pairing, though it would have been nicer a few years ago. The thing with Mosley is he looked so good against Antonio Margarito, but then the Mexican had been caught loading his gloves just before the fight. Was his head really in the right place against Shane? He didn't look or fight as though it was. Shane really struggled with Ricardo Mayorga, until producing that stunning finish. I certainly don't think Mayweather can stop him. But I do think Floyd is too fast, too sharp, and too hard to hit cleanly, so I'd pick Mayweather by decision."

Lou DiBella (promoter): "Right now, I feel that Mayweather will win a clear-cut, non-controversial decision. If you asked me a few years ago, it would have been a different decision. But look at Margarito's face when he went into the ring that night. He had to be a complete wreck walking out with his advantage gone. As marvelous as I think Shane is, I go with Mayweather by clear decision."

Lem Satterfield (boxing writer/editor AOL's Fanhouse.com): "It's a great fight, probably long overdue. I'm going to go with Mayweather, because he's more seasoned and calculating than people give him credit for. Just look at his big fights against Genaro Hernandez and Diego Corrales, and to a certain degree, Arturo Gatti. Mayweather always stepped up and finished. Mayweather will demonstrate more toughness than he's ever shown. One intangible that Mosley brings is his potential for a vicious body attack, but I believe Floyd will eek out a De La Hoya-like, split decision."

Ronnie Shields (trainer of junior welterweight contender Juan Diaz): "I really love the fight. I like Mayweather because of his style. Shane doesn't like guys who jab a lot, and Floyd has a great jab and is a great counterpuncher. Floyd has the speed and will keep Mosley at a safe distance. Floyd will keep Shane reaching all day. He'll have to pressure him to win. Floyd will step around and hold. Floyd will win by decision."

Chad Dawson (number-one light heavyweight contender): "Those are two fighters that I respect, and they've both done great things in boxing. Floyd's skills, his hand speed, and accuracy make him tough to beat. I think it will be a tough and competitive fight. I give Shane a great shot to win. Shane is a little older, but I'm looking at what Shane did against Margarito, and if that Shane shows up, Floyd is going to be in for a tough night. Shane's wanted this fight for a long time. That will come out. But this is a fight where boxing will be the difference. It's why I think Floyd will win by decision. But it's going to be a great fight."

Nick Charles (*ShoBox* blow-by-blow announcer): "It's a more intriguing fight than the Pacquiao-Mayweather fight. The thing is, Mayweather hasn't beaten a full-fledged welterweight in some time, except for De La Hoya at junior middle. That's what makes this interesting. Maybe it's Mayweather's toughest fight ever. The way Mosley took apart Margarito was so convincing, but I have to go with a decision though for Mayweather, because he neutralizes what everyone does best. He never gets hit flush. Mosley has to outbox him, and no one can do that."

Don Chargin (Hall of Fame promoter): "I make it a very, very tough fight. A lot of people figure that Floyd will have a cakewalk, but I think Shane's long layoff will be good for him. I look for Shane to give Floyd everything he wants and then some. I see Shane winning. I base that on watching Shane since his amateur days and I know when he sets his mind to something, he's tough to beat. I don't know about stopping Floyd, but I see a real competitive decision for Shane."

Martin Mulcahey (Maxboxing.com writer): "Mosley has two disadvantages that are hard to ignore. He enters the ring off a 15-month layoff. At 38, Mosley is five years older, and has more hard miles on his boxing odometer. However, Mosley is the more fluid offensive force, and Vegas tends to reward offense over ring generalship. This fight comes down to legs, and that is where Mayweather positions himself for victory. Timing issues will limit Mosley, allowing Mayweather to create the distance needed to counter and land between Mosley's combinations. Mayweather is an exceedingly accurate puncher, and slower foes like Cotto and Margarito showed Mosley's defensive reflexes are dissipating. Early rounds set the pace and can shape judge's opinions. I like Mayweather to win the opening rounds and a close unanimous decision."

Paulie Malignaggi (junior welterweight contender): "People get on Floyd's back for not fighting certain top fighters, but fighting Shane Mosley makes a statement in itself. Shane is a dangerous fighter, but I can see Floyd making adjustments during the fight. He's a very cerebral fighter. It's why I can see him winning by a close decision."

Andre Berto (welterweight contender): "It's going to definitely be a competitive fight. Mosley can't let Floyd get too comfortable. Shane has the speed and the power to offset Floyd's technique. It will be toss-up, but I'll say Floyd by decision."

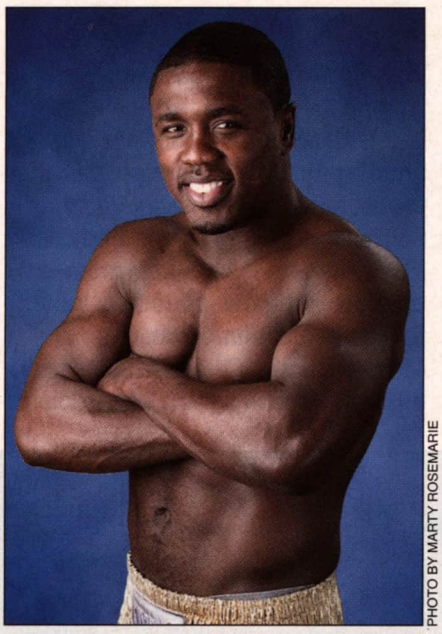

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSEMARIE

Andre Berto, The Ring's number-six welterweight contender, also thinks Mayweather will win a decision, but believes an upset is possible. Bert was set to fight Mosley himself, but withdrew to help relatives who were victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

Bill Calogero (host of *Talkin' Boxing With Billy C*): "In Mosley, you have an older fighter, but he is a naturally bigger and faster fighter than what Mayweather has been in with lately, which will force Floyd to actually fight. Floyd is one of the best defensive fighters the sport has to offer. The big knock on him is that at times he doesn't finish the way we would like to see; he seems content with dancing his way to a decision. Despite Mosley's age, I believe that his speed, aggressive style, and power will aid him to victory. Mosley by decision."

Rich Marotta (FOXSports Net boxing analyst): "This will depend on Mosley's ability to turn it into a real fight. Mayweather has an edge in hand speed, Mosley an edge in power. I think Mayweather will be able to control the tempo and flow of the fight. Mosley's task is to lure Mayweather into exchanges. If he does that, he can rattle Floyd and throw him off his game. In a firefight, Mosley will have the edge. However, I just don't think he's going to be able to do that enough to win. Mayweather will slow the pace down, picking his spots, and win a decision."

James Leija (former lightweight contender who lost to Shane Mosley in 1998): "Mayweather is incredible. You can't hit the guy. He tucks his chin behind his shoulder and he sees everything. The way Mosley fought Margarito was great, but Margarito was there to be hit. I like Mosley, but Mayweather is a different animal. I'm pulling for Mosley, but my head says Mayweather by decision."

Brian Kenny (ESPN2's *Friday Night Fights* studio host): "I love the fight. I think it's the second fight Mayweather should have had. I still see the fight going the way all Floyd Mayweather fights go. I was extremely impressed by what Floyd did against Marquez. He was on point, his game plan was tight. I don't see him taking a lot of shots from Shane, but if you can't hit the guy, you can't beat him. I underestimated Shane a number of times and thought the magic was gone from the body. I learned not to sell Shane short, I just think it'll be hard for Shane or anyone to penetrate Floyd while he's this sharp. I see Mayweather by decision."

Per-Ake Persson (*Boxing News* and boxingscene.com writer): "Styles make fights and it's difficult to go against Floyd Mayweather in this one. He seems to have too much of everything for Mosley and is likely to outbox and outspeed him. There's also a time factor and while Floyd has wasted a lot time with being "retired," he doesn't seem to have lost any of his amazing skills. Shane is still very good, but doesn't seem to have that "extra" that made him so special a few years back. It's difficult to seen any other result than a wide points win for Mayweather."

Final Tally: Mayweather 17, Mosley 3. ■

MAYWEATHER-MOSLEY

What Would Victory Mean For The Fighters & The Sport?

By William Dettloff

In a time long, long ago (1999) a periodical from another era (THE RING's sister publication, the now-defunct *KO* magazine) posited the question: "Mayweather vs. Mosley: Who's the Future of Boxing?" Opinions from a number of fight game personalities spewed forth—Ray Leonard, Kevin Rooney, Vinny Pazienza, and so forth. They could only guess, of course, but 11 years later, one would have to favor by a slim margin Mayweather having won the race.

At this writing, "Money May" is still undefeated, while Mosley has lost five times; Mayweather's won titles in four divisions to Mosley's three, and Mayweather has spent far more time at the top of the pound-for-pound rankings. Also, on two occasions—in 1998 and in 2007—Mayweather was named RING's Fighter of the Year. Mosley has never been so honored. Lastly, Mayweather has almost certainly lost more money in the G-strings of writhing Las Vegas divas than Mosley has accumulated probably in his last 10 fights combined.

Further, Mayweather has never been accused, much less admitted to, ingesting in one way or another any performance-enhancing drugs. Mosley, of course, has, no matter how earnestly he smiles away the question during interviews.

True, Mosley has faced what most would consider a larger number of high-quality fighters. Not coincidentally, one can make the argument that Sugar Shane is far more respected among the muddled hardcore, this despite the aforementioned steroid debacle. This goes to show you how far a ready smile, quiet confidence, and a killer's heart go when it comes to inducing selective amnesia. But respect doesn't pay the bills.

Don't feel badly for Mosley. Even if he can't undo the last 11 years (nor should he want to), he will get his chance on May 1 in Las Vegas not only to prove he can whip Mayweather even at the improbable age of 38, but in so doing establish beyond most reasonable doubt that he would have done it at a younger age as well. Then who should have been the future of boxing, smart guy?

The outcome having yet to be decided, we endeavor in this feature not to predict who will win on May 1, but to consider what a win would mean to each fighter and to the business in which these very talented athletes and future Hall of Fame members find themselves. We start with Mayweather.

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

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WHAT A MAYWEATHE

To His Legacy: It depends on which side of the fence you're on. If you are among those who have never seen video of Willie Pep, Ray Robinson, Pernell Whitaker, or a hell of a lot of other guys and believe as a consequence Mayweather's assertion that he is the best thing to happen to boxing since thong-wearing round card girls, it's your chance to say: "Told you so!" Even if you're wrong. Still, a win over Mosley, even the 38-year-old version, is an excellent addition to a resume that includes Diego Corrales, Genaro Hernandez, Oscar De La Hoya, Arturo Gatti, Ricky Hatton, Juan Manuel Marquez, Zab Judah, Carlo Hernandez, and Jesus Chavez. Mayweather is a first-ballot Hall of Famer without Mosley, but a win over Mosley is a big plus.

To His Reputation: Mayweather's been hearing for a long time—deservedly—about the dearth of high-quality welterweights on his resume. A win over one of the most formidable welterweights in the business shuts up a lot of know-it-alls. He beats Mosley and he can fight as many blown up junior lightweights, alcoholics, 'rasslers, and faded legends as he wants and no one can say anything—for a little while, anyway, at least until a fight with Manny Pacquiao can be made. And that's the other upside. Much of the boxing world blames Mayweather for the fight with Pacquiao not coming off, believing he contrived the testing issue as a means to get out of the fight. If he fights and beats Mosley, whom Pacquiao has very clearly sidestepped, he must be given credit.

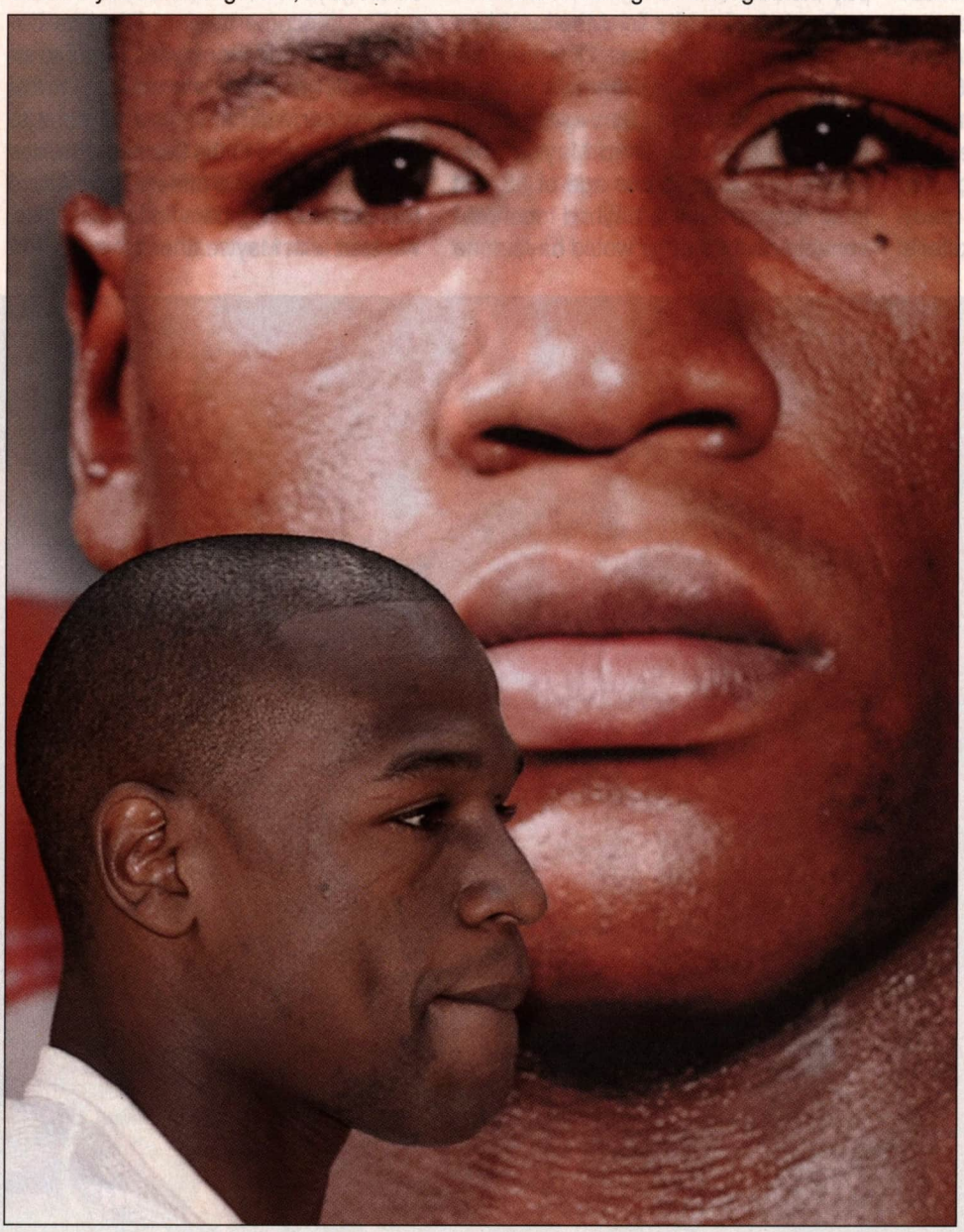


PHOTO BY GABRIEL BOUYS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Image vs. Reality: While his accomplishments do not equal Mayweather's inflated image of himself, beating a top-notch welterweight such as Mosley would go a long way to silencing "Money's" critics.

To His Standing in the Pound-For-Pound Ranking: At this writing, Mayweather ranks behind only Pacquiao, so a win over Mosley (say, a close decision win in a tactical affair) in and of itself may or may not do much but make the debate a little louder. But what if Pacquiao struggles against Joshua Clottey in Dallas on March 13? A difficult win over Clottey or—gasp!—a loss coupled with a win of *any* kind over Mosley catapults Mayweather to the top of the heap, which is where he spent the better part of the last decade. Who says you can't go home again?

To His Bank Account: Mayweather won't make the $40-million against Mosley that he might have made against Pacquiao, and to a guy who somehow has managed to owe the IRS millions, $10-million is no small matter. But look at it this way: $15-20-million for Mosley and then $40-million for Pacquiao beats the heck out of

R VICTORY MEANS...

"just" 40-million for Pacquiao. In fact, if Mayweather beats Mosley, he'll be like an actor who just won an Oscar. His price goes up. Way up. Again. Where's the ceiling for this guy?

To His Ego: If you think Mayweather is insufferable now, forget it. He'll be gracious to Mosley after the fight, but his head will be so big it'll block out the sun. In his mind, he will have become not just the greatest prizefighter ever, but the greatest athlete, the greatest entertainer, the greatest human: Jim Thorpe, Elvis, and Mohandas Gandhi rolled into one.

To His Relationship With His Father: Not much. They appear to have reconciled to the degree that they are ever going to. And between the elder Mayweather's diminished standing in the business (see Pacquiao KO 2 Hatton) and his failing health, he's not in a position to rock the boat. He'll do whatever he has to do to stay in his son's good graces.

To the Rest of the Welterweight Division: Mayweather has never demonstrated caring very much about proving himself to be the best welterweight in the world. Saying it, yes. Proving it, not too much. If anything, a win over Mosley would make him even less inclined to seek out big challenges like Miguel Cotto, Antonio Margarito, Andre Berto, or even Paul Williams. Advice to all welterweights: If Mayweather wins, pork up. There's room at junior middle.

To Boxing: In the short term, the game will take a minor hit because one of its best practitioners will vanish. If you haven't noticed, Mayweather likes to take long vacations after big fights—seven months between De La Hoya and Hatton, almost two years between Hatton and Marquez. You won't see him in the ring again in 2010. After that, the drum will beat again for Mayweather-Pacquiao, assuming Pacquiao gets by Clottey. What happens then is anyone's guess.

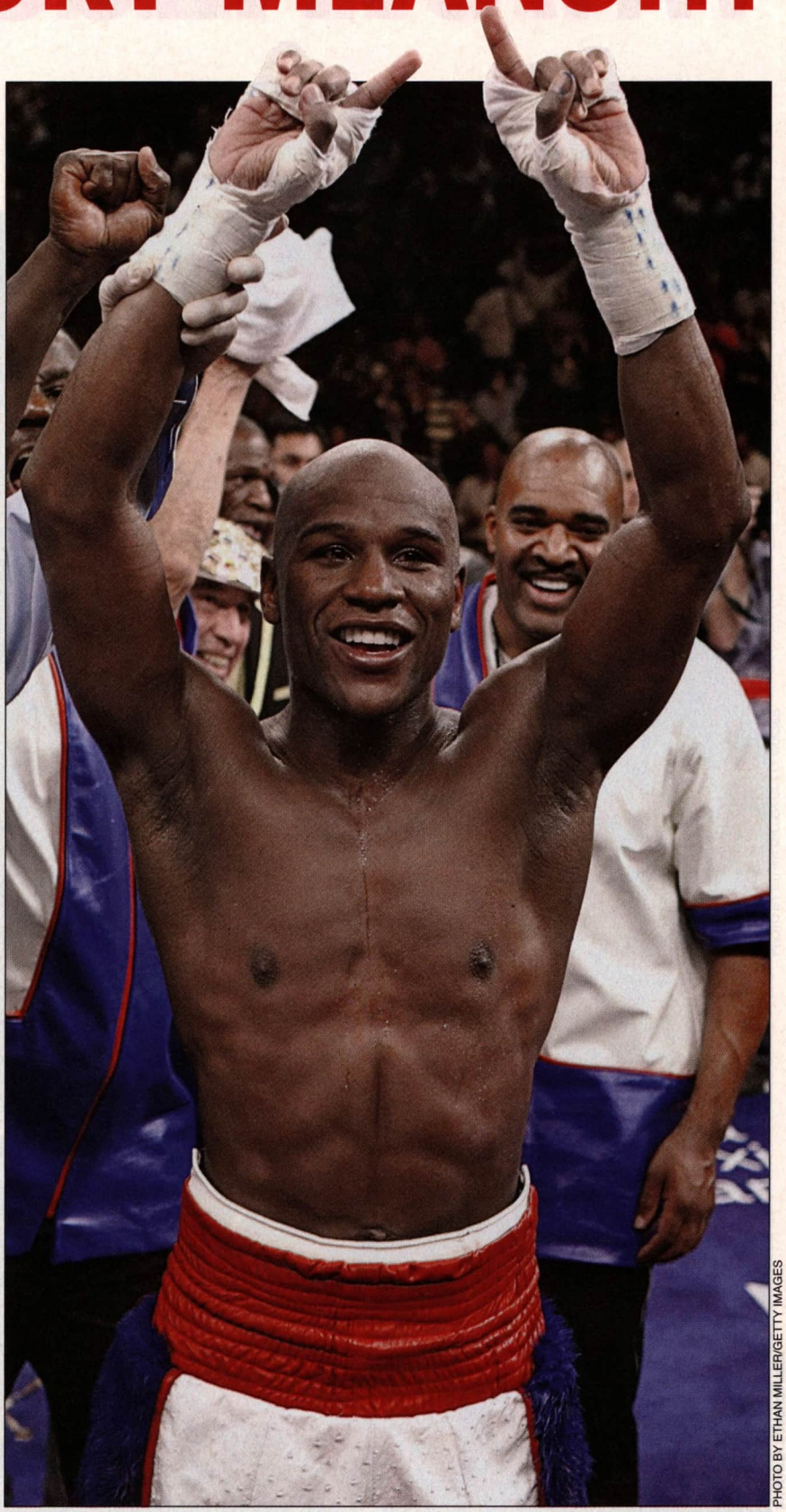
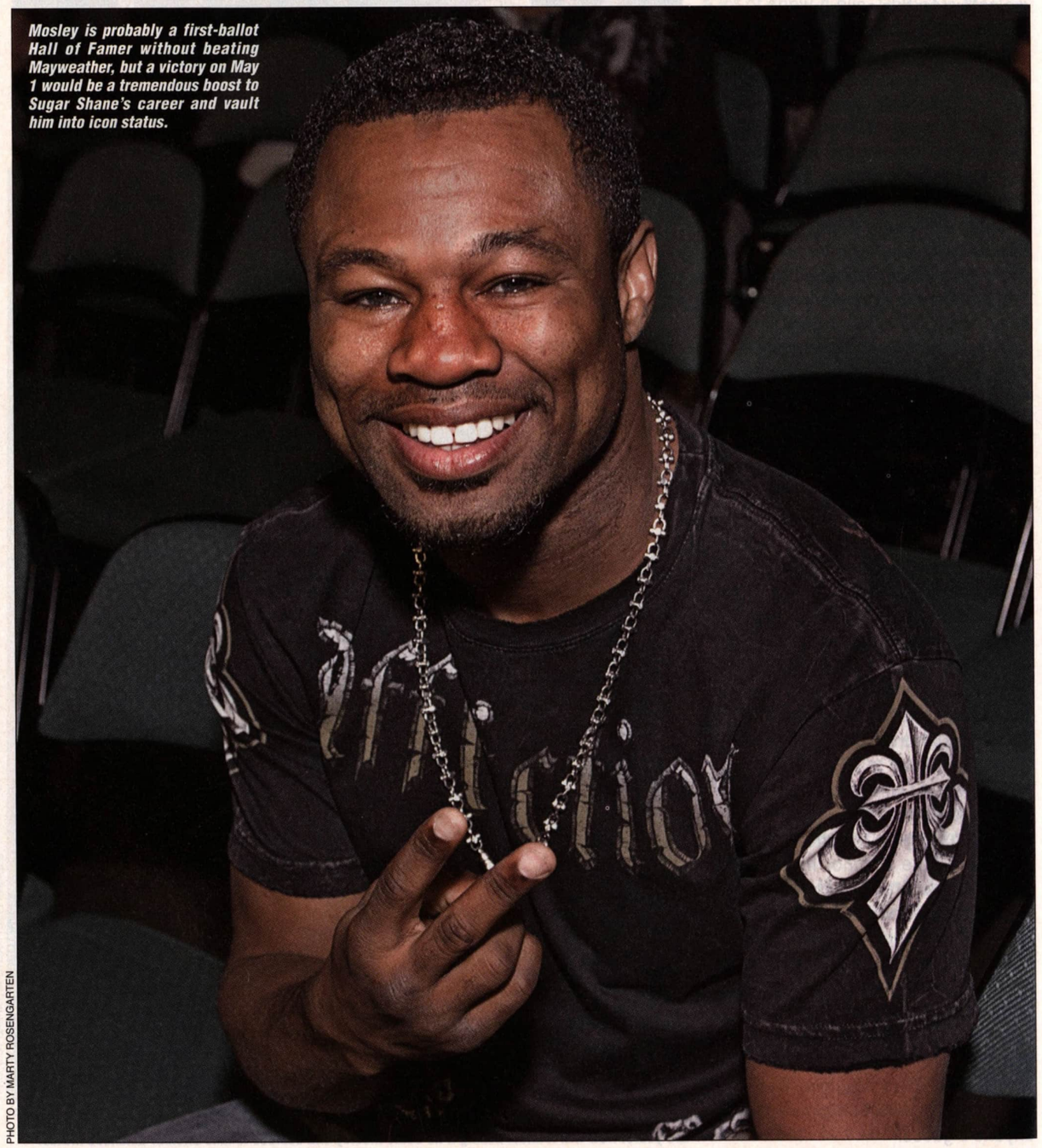


PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Prior to returning to defeat Juan Manuel Marquez in September, Mayweather had not fought in almost two years. How will it affect boxing if he beats Mosley and decides to take another extended hiatus?

WHAT A MOSLEY VI

To His Future: You have to talk about the future any time you're discussing the fortunes of a 38-year-old athlete, so in the short-term a win by Mosley would almost certainly mean a rematch with Mayweather. It's hard to imagine there would not be a rematch clause in the contract and that Mayweather, unless he is badly beaten, would not exercise it. So expect Mosley-Mayweather II. Beyond that, Mosley doesn't have time nor interest



Mosley is probably a first-ballot Hall of Famer without beating Mayweather, but a victory on May 1 would be a tremendous boost to Sugar Shane's career and vault him into icon status.

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

CTORY MEANS...

in dawdling around with smaller fights. He will lobby loudly, or have someone who gets loud lobby for him, for a fight with Pacquiao, assuming Pacquiao beats Clottey. It is the most logical fight and the biggest fight for both guys with the only roadblock being the apparent reluctance of Pacquiao's people to make it happen.

To His Legacy: Old-time boxing guys love Mosley, an odd thing given their contempt for athletes who avail themselves of the benefits of modern science, and the primary reason is his fearlessness in his selection of opponents and in the ring. The notion of Mosley quitting, looking for an easy way out, or contributing to a boring fight is almost unthinkable. It is easy to envision him engaging Beau Jack in a series of great fights, or Ike Williams or Henry Armstrong. He's that kind of fighter. Always has been. A win over Mayweather promotes him from respected star to icon.

To His Bank Account: There is little doubt that Jin Mosley, the fighter's former wife and manager, made out handsomely when she and Shane parted ways. He was lucky if he came out of it with a hotplate and an old doorknob. With the money he'll make beating Mayweather, then, presumably, winning the rematch, and then, in the best-case scenario, a fight with Pacquiao, he'll be able to get that new doorknob he's been eyeing.

To His Promotional Company: Mosley is managed by Golden Boy Promotions, who, for the purposes of this event at least, represent Mayweather as well. A win by Mosley is not necessarily the preferred outcome. If he were 24 or 25 or even 30, it surely would be, but it's hard to build a substantive growth plan for a 38-year-old fighter. A promotional company needs young fighters. Mayweather is unquestionably a pain in Richard Schaefer's neck—he made Schaefer sweat a long time before signing the

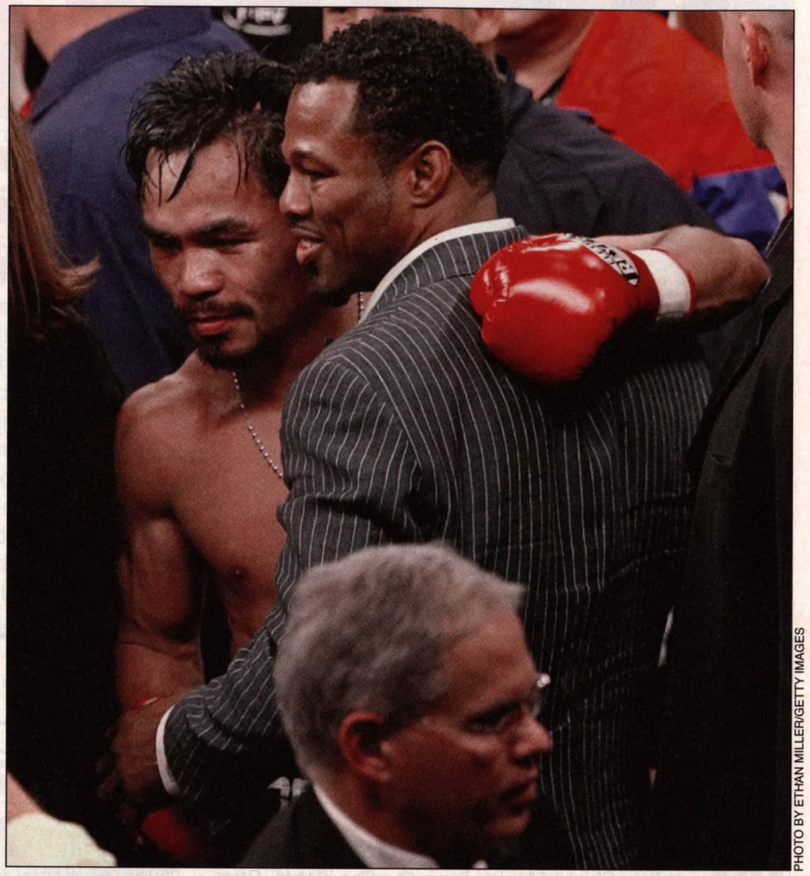


PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

If Manny Pacquiao beats Joshua Clottey and Mosley beats Mayweather, a Pac-Man vs. Sugar Shane fight would be a natural. Both Pacquiao and Mosley are known for being willing to fight anyone, but boxing politics could possibly derail a match between them.

contract—but at 33 he presumably has more big fights down the road than does Mosley. That makes a win by Mosley, if not bad news for Golden Boy, then at least not the best news.

To His Pound-For-Pound Ranking: At this writing, THE RING ranks Mosley third, right behind Pacquiao and Mayweather (obviously, this is a very tight race). Naturally, a win over Mayweather elevates him at least to second, and then it is a question of how he wins and how Pacquiao looks and does against Clottey. The same logic applies that was in place for Mayweather: If Pacquiao does not perform up to the ridiculously high standard he has set for himself, it's probable that Mosley overtakes him. And then we have something we've never had before: a nearly 40-year-old pound-for-pound king. That's remarkable.

To the Rest of the Welterweight Division: At this stage in his career, Mosley is not interested in cleaning out the division. He wants only the biggest fights, which means no Clottey, probably no Andre Berto, and no rematches with Miguel Cotto or Luis Collazo unless something weird happens. We're talking about Mayweather and then, if he can get him in the ring, Pacquiao. That's good news for him, bad news for the rest of the world's better 147-pounders. ■

10 GREAT WELTERWEIGHT FIGHTS

Will Mosley-Mayweather Live Up To Its Predecessors?

By Gavin Evans

When it comes to consolation prizes, Floyd Mayweather-Shane Mosley is as good as it gets. Sure, we were gutted to see Pac-Man vs. Money being blitzed, but the welterweight division is so talent-rich right now that several other juicy encounters were available, and it is to his credit that Mayweather has chosen the best.

But if it is to live up to the standards of 147-pound posterity, "Sugar" Shane vs. "Money" Mayweather will have to be an absolute cracker, because more than any other division, the welterweights have produced the goods.

One aspect of the division's illustrious past is that it has consistently provided enticing rivalries—Ted "Kid" Lewis-Jack Britton (20 times), Barney Ross-Jimmy McLarnin, Carmen Basilio-Tony DeMarco, Emile Griffiths-Benny "Kid" Paret, Roberto Duran-Sugar Ray Leonard, Leonard-Tommy Hearns, Oscar De La Hoya-Shane Mosley.

Its enduring appeal also has to do with the size of the men involved—just the right blend of speed, power, and muscle that often creates the best boxing has to offer.

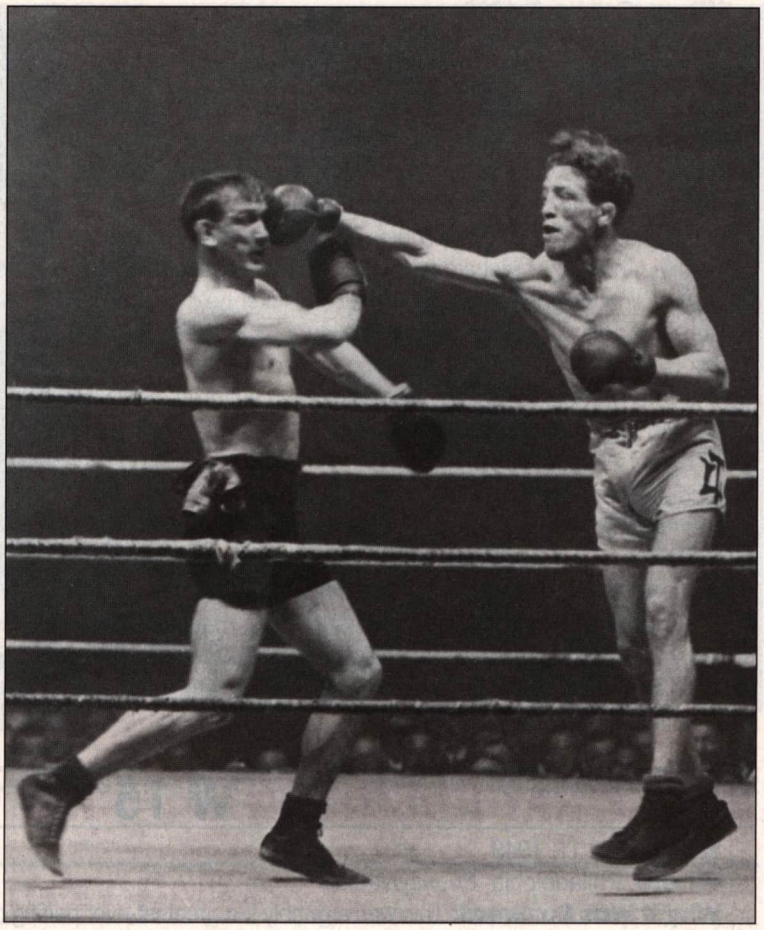
It should be added, however, that welterweights have grown like everyone else, partly a product of weigh-ins held 30 hours before fight time. When Ted Lewis won the title, he weighed 134 pounds. Henry Armstrong was half a pound lighter. Compare that to Joshua Clottey who was reported to have entered the ring at 166 pounds when he beat Diego Corrales.

But whatever their actual size, these big, little men are invariably in contention when it comes to choosing the outstanding fight of the year. Look at THE RING's Fights of the Year since 1945 and you'll find the names of 10 welterweight champions in 12 of the fights. One of these, Carmen Basilio, featured in five in a row. It's also a division that consistently produces surprises. In the 30 years that THE RING has listed its Upset of the Year, 12 welterweight titleholders have been featured.

To pick our top-10 fights therefore wasn't easy, and we've left out worthy candidates—Ross-McLarnin 1 and 2, Armstrong's duals with Fritzie Zivic, Basilio's with Saxton, Griffiths' with Paret, Donald Curry's split decision victory over Marlon Starling, and Aaron Davis' come-from-behind knockout over Mark Breland, to mention a few.

So to return to Mayweather and Mosley, they'll have their work cut out. If they are to keep to the standards of their predecessors, we will expect a fight that combines the outer limits of skill, speed, power, and activity.

TED "KID" LEWIS W 12 JACK BRITTON

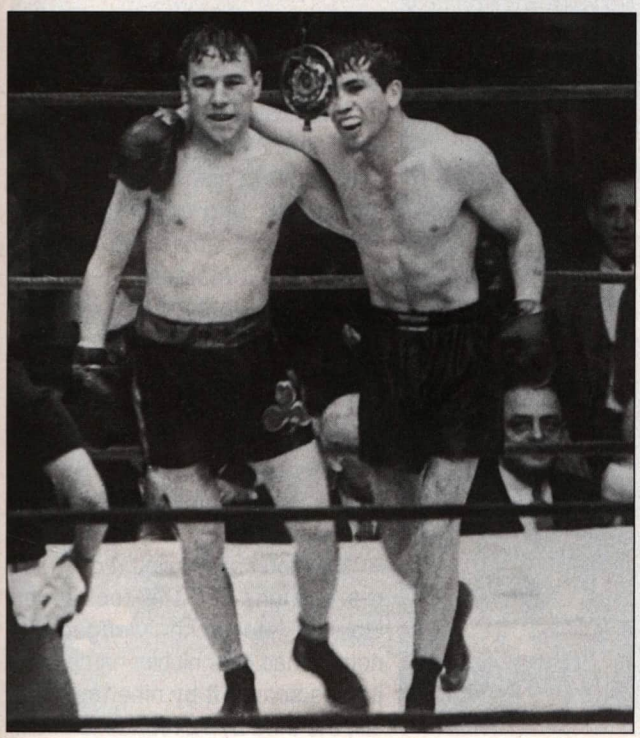


When: Aug. 31, 1915
Where: Boston, Massachusetts
Why It Was So Great: This one had the ingredients of an ideal-type rivalry. It pitted a Jewish Englishman with a slashing, bashing, two-fisted American style (Lewis) against an Irish-American who fought in the shifty, jab-and-move mode more associated with British boxers (Britton). Their styles blended and they were so evenly matched that neither could claim a decisive advantage (The final score was four wins to Britton, three to Lewis, and 13 no-decisions or draws).

Lewis arrived in America as European featherweight champion in 1915 and immediately tested his prowess against the world's best lightweights and welterweights. In March, he had fought a 10 round no-decision bout with Britton and the return, five months later, was for the vacant world title.

A problem came when Lewis arrived one pound under the stipulated 135-pound minimum. Britton then refused to weigh in, but was estimated to enjoy a 10-pound edge. What followed was 15-rounds of high-order action, with the heavy-handed Englishman attacking incessantly from his crouching style, while the American boxed brilliantly off the back foot, sliding out of the way as he threaded his jab home. The crowd at the Boston Armory were squarely behind Britton, but Lewis' aggression and work rate earned him the decision.

BARNEY ROSS W 15 JIMMY McLARNIN

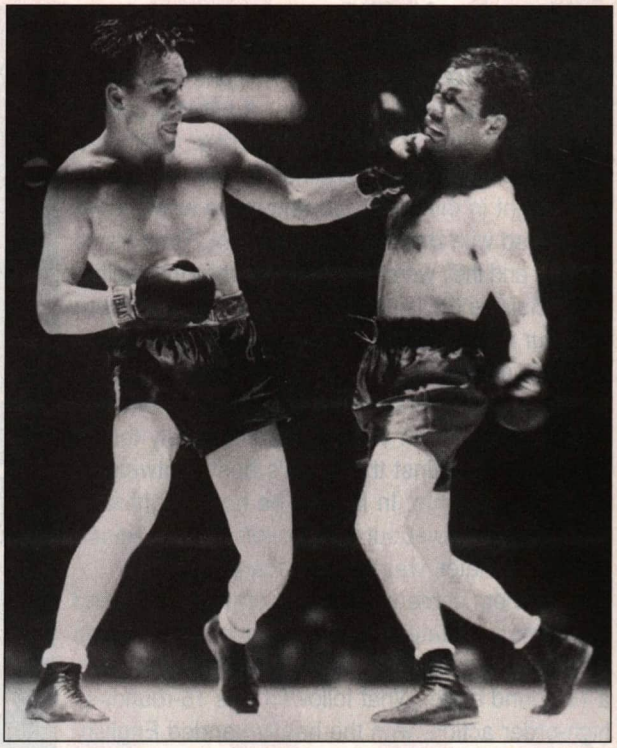


When: May 28, 1935
Where: New York, New York
Why It Was So Great: Again, the blend of backgrounds and boxing styles was perfect. Ross was a Jewish-American from a street background who had made good from boxing, holding the world lightweight and junior welterweight titles before relieving "Baby Face" McLarnin of the welterweight title. In the return, the Canadian-based Irishman gained revenge, setting up the rubber match.

Ross was a quick-moving, highly skilled boxer who made up for his lack of power with slick counterpunching skills and a busy work rate. McLarnin was in his second reign as welterweight champion. He was a sharp boxer-puncher with impressive power in both hands, but he suffered from perpetual hand troubles.

Fighting at New York's Polo Grounds in front of 35,000 fans, Ross and McLarnin put on a high-skilled thriller with fortunes repeatedly seesawing. Ringside opinion was divided as to whether or not McLarnin's edge in power canceled out Ross' higher strike rate. The three officials, however, were unanimous, giving it to Ross by margins of two rounds (twice) and four rounds, although several newspaper writers insisted the Irishman was robbed, a view McLarnin maintained throughout his long life.

JIMMY McLARNIN W 10 TONY CANZONERI



When: October 5, 1936
Where: New York, New York
Why It Was So Great: Canzoneri was one of the finest pre-World War II champions, blessed with astonishing reflexes, speed, and power. He started at bantamweight and won the world featherweight title before two impressive reigns at lightweight champion and one at junior welterweight.

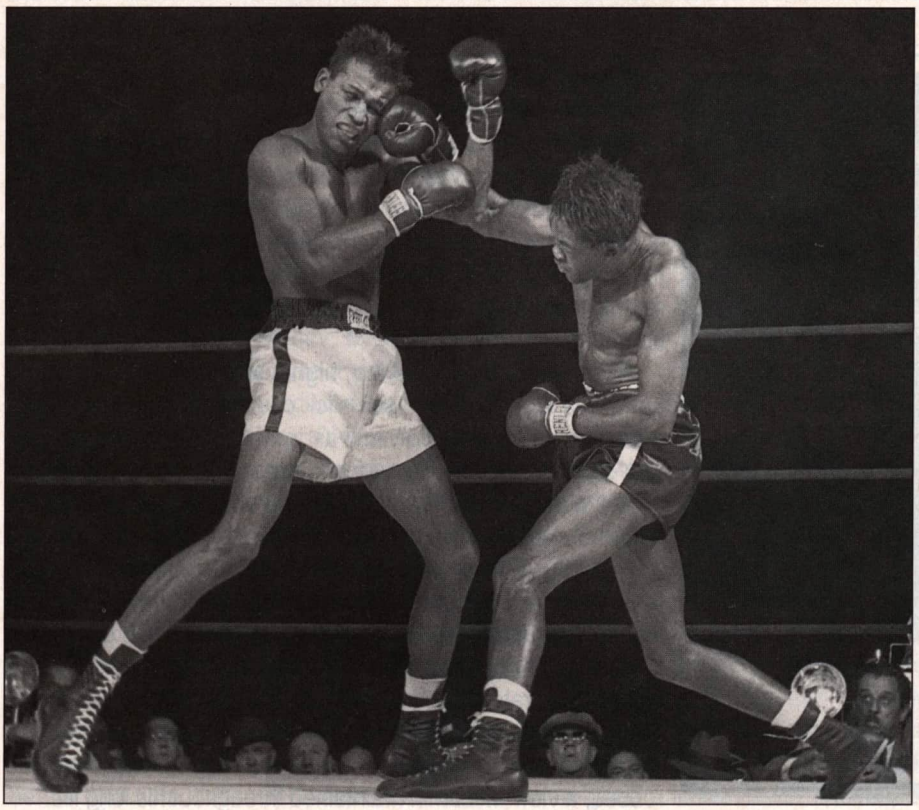
The Italian-American New Yorker pulled off a minor upset by outpointing the bigger McLarnin in May '36, but four months later he lost the lightweight title to Lou Ambers, a boxer he'd previously beaten. McLarnin also seemed on the slide after his back-to-back losses to Ross and Canzoneri.

The return was postponed when Canzoneri suffered a split lip in training, but a week later it was back on (remarkably, only a month after his loss to Ambers) and the 11,423-strong crowd at Madison Square Garden witnessed a corker.

But this time, the heavier (by eight pounds) McLarnin held the edge, landing frequently with both hands, although Canzoneri made him battle for every point. The smaller man was bleeding from his nose, mouth, and a badly gashed right eye, and the crowd yelled for the bout to be stopped. But referee Billy Cavanaugh knew that Canzoneri had never been stopped and allowed him to stay the course.

SUGAR RAY ROBINSON W 15 KID GAVILAN

When: July 11, 1949
Where: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Why It Was So Great: This was arguably the greatest-ever pairing of welterweights. They first fought a non-title 10-rounder in November 1948, when the Cuban surprised the world champion, running him close. The judges and sportswriters agreed Sugar Ray deserved it, but the crowd booed. This set up the rematch 10 months later (in which time Gavilan picked up seven wins and Robinson tallied eight wins and a draw).



The crowd of nearly 28,000 at Municipal Stadium watched a bout that THE RING described as a "most interesting and satisfying one." Gavilan was not a devastating puncher, but his defensive skills, speed, work rate, and bewildering array of punches made him a nightmare for Robinson. The "Cuban Hawk" cut Robinson in the fourth and shook him in the eighth. THE RING reported that Gavilan made Sugar Ray "admit that he feared to take chances."

But Robinson pulled it out down the stretch, and the rock-jawed Gavilan later acknowledged that nobody had ever hit him harder. Two judges scored it by nine rounds to six, the third by 12 rounds to three.

KID GAVILAN W 15 CARMEN BASILIO

When: September 18, 1953
Where: Syracuse, New York
Why It Was So Great: With Robinson fighting at middleweight, Gavilan was riding high as world welterweight champion, making his sixth defense. Basilio operated at a lower level with a tally of 10 losses and five draws out of 50 (although he was unbeaten in his last eight). He was regarded as a rough, strong, and exciting brawler who could not compete with the elevated skills of the champion.

What wasn't yet clear was that the Cuban was beginning to slip after packing 111 fights into his 10-year career, while the "Onion Farmer" was hitting his formidable peak.

Both men entered the ring at the War Memorial Auditorium at the 147-pound limit, but Gavilan had a four-inch height advantage. Basilio's tactics therefore involved getting close and pounding away with heavy hooks to the head and body. He dropped Gavilan in round two (only the second knockdown in his career) and continued to dominate the early rounds. But from the seventh round on, Gavilan took over, using his speed and dazzling combinations to outbox the tiring Basilio.

The judges were split. One gave it to Basilio by seven rounds to five with three even, but he was overruled by scores of 7-6-2 and 8-6-1 for Gavilan.

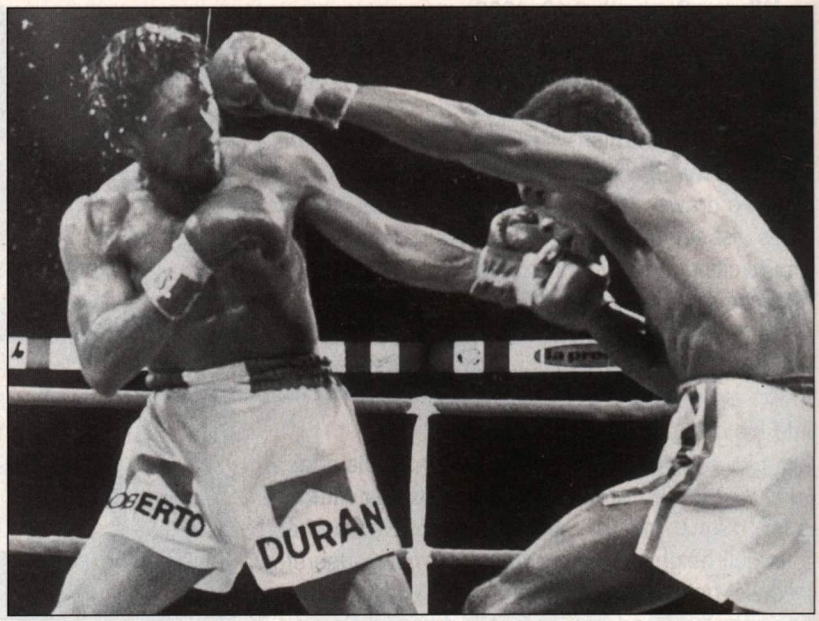
CARMEN BASILIO KO 12 TONY DeMARCO

When: November 30, 1955
Where: Boston, Massachusetts
Why It Was So Great: These two first met in a memorable war in June 1955, with DeMarco, the rampaging world champion, setting a remarkable pace before getting stopped in the 12th. Basilio was unbeaten in his previous 14, since losing that split decision to Kid Gavilan. The Basilio-DeMarco rematch packed the Boston Garden and was the most eagerly anticipated fight of the year.

The squat, powerful Bostonian stood 5'5" (an inch-and-a-half less than Basilio) and weighed in 145½ pounds (the same as Basilio). DeMarco came storming out, throwing long lefts. Both men were converted southpaws and both broke their left hands early in the fight. In the fifth, DeMarco, leaking blood from the nose and left eye, wobbled the 28-year-old Basilio and then piled in wildly. He nearly dropped the defending champ in the seventh and eighth and was well ahead on the cards but was beginning to tire, partly due to Basilio's body attack.

In round 12, a worn out DeMarco absorbed five rights and sank to the floor. He was up at eight, but Basilio landed a left hook and a big right. DeMarco collapsed as referee Mel Manning waved it off at the 1:54 mark.

ROBERTO DURAN W 15 SUGAR RAY LEONARD



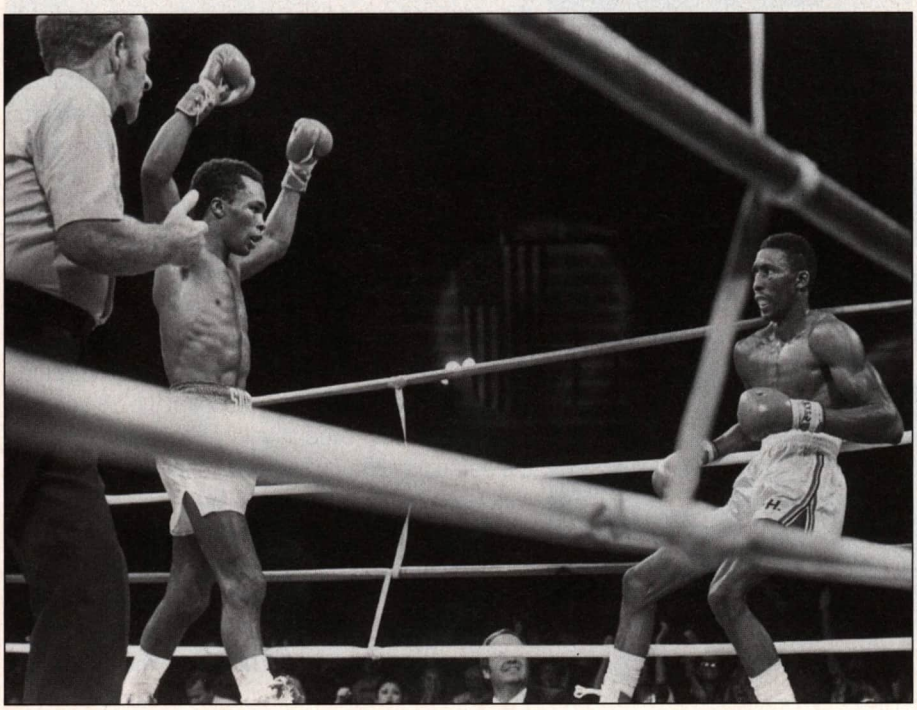
When: June 20, 1980
Where: Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Why It Was So Great: Duran had proved himself one of the greatest lightweights in history, ruling for over six years before moving straight up to 147 pounds. He'd put together eight welterweight fights, including a one-sided decision over former WBC titleholder Carlos Palomino. But Leonard was considered to be too big, young, and special. A former Olympic gold medalist, he was undefeated as a professional and had looked dazzling in winning the WBC belt from the previously unbeaten Wilfred Benitez and blowing away Dave "Boy" Green.

Duran's prefight tactic of taunting Leonard and questioning his machismo worked well, drawing the 24-year-old American into a punch-up. "Hands Of Stone" was a masterful infighter where his ability to roll with the punches and land short, heavy hooks to the head and body gave him a slight edge over the 5'10" Sugar Ray.

What followed was a magnificent fight. When Leonard boxed from range he seemed in control, but Duran was always able to close the gap. Both showed immense resilience, power, skill, and courage, but after 15 rounds each of the judges agreed that Duran had shaded it. Two gave it to Duran by one point and one by two points.

SUGAR RAY LEONARD KO 14 THOMAS HEARNS

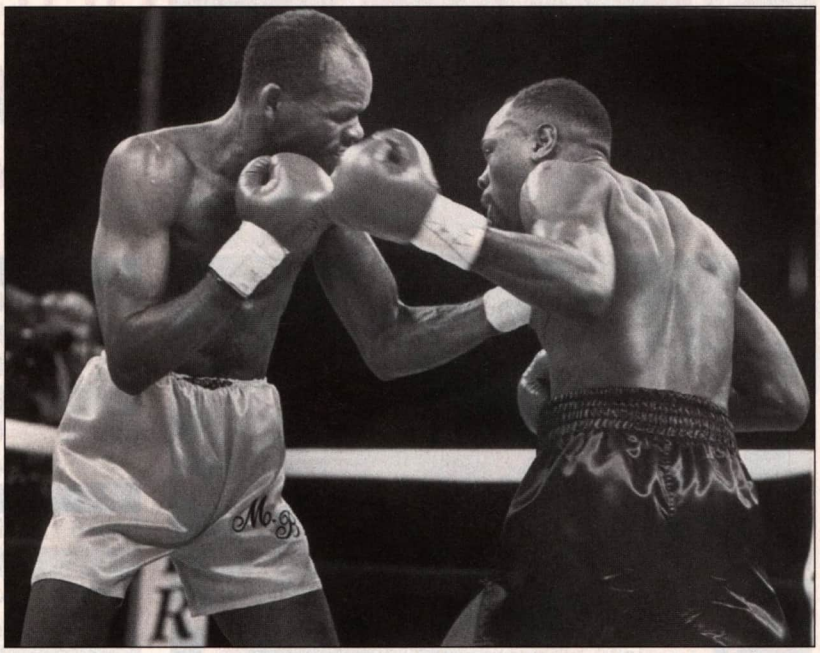
When: September 16, 1981
Where Las Vegas, Nevada
Why It Was So Great: These two were emerging giants. Leonard had secured crossover celebrity status after vanquishing Wilfred Benitez, avenging his sole defeat by driving Roberto Duran into "No Mas" surrender and winning the WBA junior middleweight belt. But Hearns, who had demolished Pipino Cuevas for the WBA welter belt, enjoyed a more fearsome reputation, with 30 knockouts in 32 straight wins. Going in, the "Hit Man" was a 6-5 favorite.



Hearns used his 78-inch reach to pick off his fleet-footed rival, but the roles changed when Hearns wobbled under Sugar Ray's sixth-round assault. Leonard maintained the pressure, pummeling his rival's elongated body, after which Hearns switched to the jab-and-move style of his amateur days, closing Leonard's eye and building up a lead.

Going into round 13, Angelo Dundee famously told Leonard: "You're blowing it, son." Leonard responded by shaking Hearns with a right, before driving him through the ropes and putting him down. In the 14th, Leonard pinned Hearns on the ropes and pounded away until referee Dave Pearl stepped in. At the time, Hearns was ahead on all three cards by margins of two, three, and four points.

SIMON BROWN KO 10 MAURICE BLOCKER



When: March 18 1991
Where: Las Vegas, Nevada
Why It Was So Great: Blocker was a 6'2" freak who used his reach and skill to go 24-0 before losing to Lloyd Honeyghan. He regrouped and won a majority decision over Marlon Starling for the WBC belt. Brown, his best friend, was a 5'9" powerhouse, with a vicious left hook, a powerful right, and a firm chin. But he had a similar career trajectory, going 21-0 before dropping a split decision to Starling and then bouncing back to take the IBF title.

Despite their friendship, this unification bout turned into a vicious clash. Brown stalked behind a high guard, aiming bombs at the "Thin Man." He shook Blocker in the third but had trouble landing payload punches. Blocker used his superior footwork and long jab to put together impressive combinations, and after nine rounds the judges gave him the edge (two by one point and one by two points).

But in the 10th, Brown launched a sustained attack and dropped Blocker with a hard right and an even harder left hook. Referee Mills Lane allowed Blocker to continue, but Brown was all over him and Lane stopped it at the 2:10 mark.

SHANE MOSLEY W 12 OSCAR DE LA HOYA

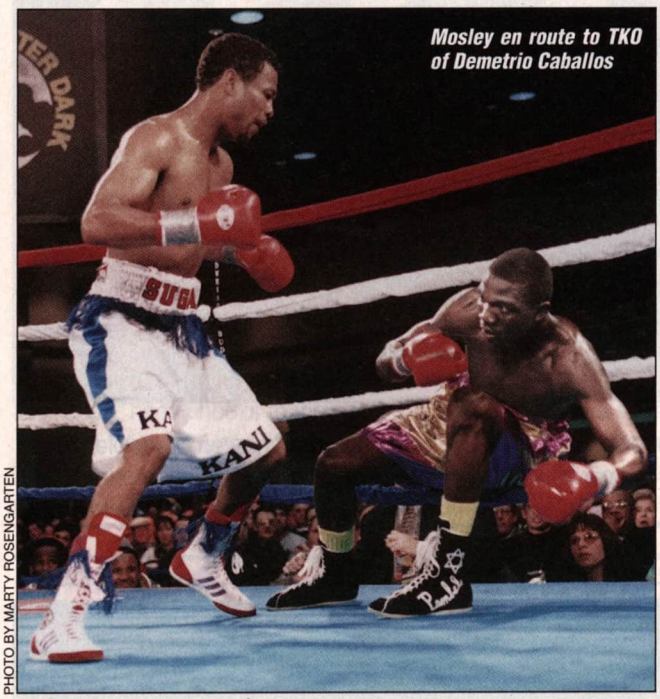
When: June 17, 2000
Where: Los Angeles, California
Why It Was So Great: De La Hoya was on a different stratosphere from every other non-heavyweight when it came to fame and fortune. After winning Olympic gold, he won titles in four divisions and his only loss, nine months earlier, came via a dubious majority decision in a unification bout with Felix Trinidad. The undefeated Mosley also had an impressive resumé that included two years as IBF lightweight titlist (eight defenses). But he'd had only two welterweight fights and was the underdog.

It turned into an extremely tight battle of skill, power, and tactics. De La Hoya, taller by two inches, had a better left and perhaps the heavier hands; Mosley had quicker feet and hands and the better right.

The fight was more intense than many expected with regular power shots from both men and intense exchanges. De La Hoya was effective with his jab and hook, while Sugar Shane would wait like a mongoose and then pounce with lead rights and rapid-fire combinations. After six rounds, "The Golden Boy" was in the ascendancy, but then Mosley came back, using speed, movement, and switch-hitting. Sugar Shane won the toe-to-toe 12th and took the fight on a split decision. ■

Gavin Evans is a London-based freelancer and a regular contributor to THE RING.

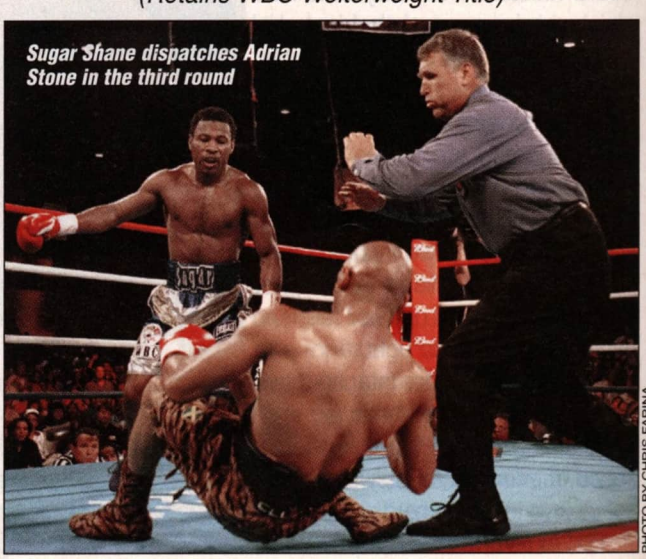
The Professional Record of SHANE MOSLEY



Mosley en route to TKO of Demetrio Caballos

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

1993		
Feb. 11	Greg Puente, Hollywood, CA	KO 5
April 24	Arnulfo Villa, San Bernardino, CA	KO 1
July 21	Pey Castillo, Reseda, CA	KO 1
Aug. 25	Roberto Urias, Hollywood	KO 5
Sept. 27	Miguel Pena, Inglewood, CA	KO 2
Oct. 25	Juan Aranda, Inglewood	KO 2
Dec. 6	Paulino Gonzalez, Inglewood	KO 2
1994		
Jan. 20	Francisco Rodriguez, Irvine, CA	KO 2
Feb. 4	Lorenzo Garcia, Oxnard, CA	KO 5
March 26	Oscar Lopez, Pomona, CA	W 10
April 29	Lorenzo Garcia, Santa Cruz, CA	KO 3
June 30	John Bryant, Irvine	KO 8
July 24	Narciso Valenzuela, Los Angeles	KO 5
Aug. 6	Mauro Gutierrez, Pomona	KO 9
Sept. 9	Louis Ramirez, Los Angeles	KO 10
Nov. 12	Jose Madrid, Santa Cruz	KO 4
1995		
April 12	Raul Hernandez, Woodland Hills, CA	KO 2
July 20	Maurico Aceves, Anaheim, CA	KO 4
1996		
Jan. 23	Mike Bryan, Biloxi, MS	KO 1
Nov. 1	Ramon Felix, Indio, CA	KO 1
Dec. 21	Joseph Murray, Uncasville, CT	KO 3
1997		
Feb. 6	Elias Quiroz, Beverly Hills, CA	KO 4
April 9	Mike Smith, Westmont, IL	KO 4
Aug. 2	Philip Holiday, Uncasville *(Wins IBF Lightweight Title)*	W 12
Nov. 25	Manuel Gomez, El Paso, TX *(Retains IBF Lightweight Title)*	KO 11
1998		
Feb. 6	Demetrio Ceballos, Uncasville *(Retains IBF Lightweight Title)*	KO 8
March 9	John-John Molina, Atlantic City *(Retains IBF Lightweight Title)*	KO 8
June 27	Wilfrido Ruiz, Philadelphia *(Retains IBF Lightweight Title)*	KO 5
Sept. 22	Eduardo Morales, New York, NY (Retains IBF Lightweight Title)	KO 5
Nov. 14	Jesse James Leija, Ledyard, CT *(Retains IBF Lightweight Title)*	KO 9
1999		
Jan. 9	Golden Johnson, Pensacola, FL *(Retains IBF Lightweight Title)*	KO 7
April 17	John Brown, Indio *(Retains IBF Lightweight Title)*	KO 8
Sept. 25	Wilfredo Rivera, Temecula, CA	KO 10
2000		
Jan. 22	Willy Wise, Las Vegas	KO 3
June 17	Oscar De La Hoya, Los Angeles *(Wins WBC Welterweight Title)*	W 12
Nov. 4	Antonio Diaz, New York *(Retains WBC Welterweight Title)*	KO 6



Sugar Shane dispatches Adrian Stone in the third round

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

2001		
March 10	Shannan Taylor, Las Vegas *(Retains WBC Welterweight Title)*	KO 5
July 21	Adrian Stone, Las Vegas *(Retains WBC Welterweight Title)*	KO 3
2002		
Jan. 26	Vernon Forrest, New York City (Loses WBC Welterweight Title)	L 12
July 20	Vernon Forrest, Indianapolis, IN *(For World Welterweight Title)*	L 12
2003		
Feb. 8	Raul Marquez, Las Vegas	No-Contest 3
Sept. 13	Oscar De La Hoya, Las Vegas *(Wins World Junior Middleweight Title)*	W 12
2004		
March 13	Winky Wright, Las Vegas *(Loses World Junior Middleweight Title)*	L 12
Nov. 20	Winky Wright, Las Vegas (For World Junior Middleweight Title)	L 12
2005		
April 23	David Estrada, Las Vegas	W 10
Sept. 17	Jose Luis Cruz, Las Vegas	W 10
2006		
Feb. 25	Fernando Vargas, Las Vegas	KO 10
July 15	Fernando Vargas, Las Vegas	KO 6
2007		
Feb. 10	Luis Collazo, Las Vegas	W 12

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Mosley hammers away at Fernando Vargas

Nov. 10	Miguel Cotto, New York *(For WBA Welterweight Title)*	L 12
2008		
Sept. 27	Ricardo Mayorga, Carson, CA	KO 12
2009		
Jan. 24	Antonio Margarito, Los Angeles *(Wins WBA Welterweight Title)*	KO 9

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KOs	NO-CONTEST
52	46	5	0	39	1

Antonio Margarito absorbs a straight right from Mosley

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

The Professional Record of FLOYD MAYWEATHER

1996		
Oct. 11	Robert Apodaca, Las Vegas, NV	KO 2
Nov. 30	Reggie Sanders, Albuquerque, NM	W 4
1997		
Jan. 18	Jerry Cooper, Las Vegas	KO 1
Jan. 31	Edgar Ayala, Chula Vista, CA	KO 2
March 12	Kino Rodriguez, Grand Rapids, MI	KO 1
April 12	Bobby Geipert, Las Vegas	KO 1
May 9	Tony Duran, Las Vegas	KO 1
June 14	Larry O'Shields, San Antonio, TX	W 6
July 12	Jesus Chavez, Biloxi, MS	KO 4
Sept. 6	Luis Leija, El Paso, TX	KO 2
Oct. 14	Felipe Garcia, Boise, ID	KO 6
Nov. 20	Angelo Nunez, Los Angeles, CA	KO 3
1998		
Jan. 9	Hector Arroyo, Biloxi	KO 5
Feb. 28	Sam Girard, Atlantic City, NJ	KO 2
March 23	Miguel Melo, Ledyard, CT	KO 3
April 17	Gustavo Cuello, Los Angeles	W 10
June 14	Tony Pep, Atlantic City	W 10
Oct. 3	Genaro Hernandez, Las Vegas *(Wins WBC Super Featherweight Title)*	KO 8
Dec. 19	Angel Manfredy, Miami, FL *(Retains WBC Super Featherweight Title)*	KO 2
1999		
Feb. 17	Carlos Rios, Grand Rapids *(Retains WBC Super Featherweight Title)*	W 12

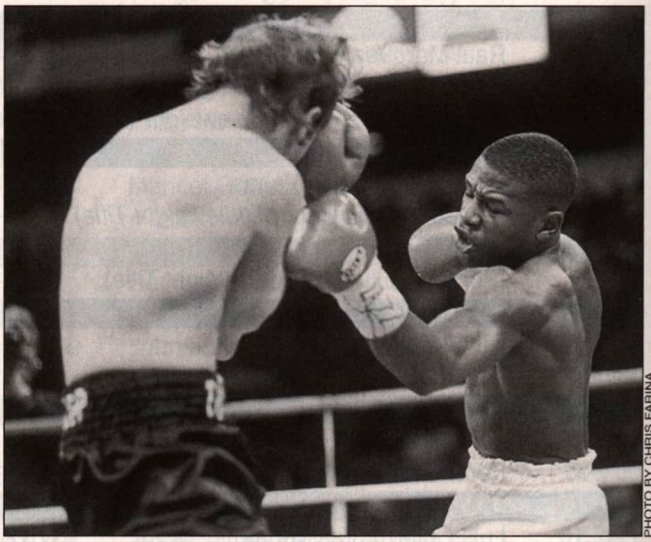


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Mayweather kayoed Jerry Cooper in the first round of his third pro fight

May 22	Justin Juuko, Las Vegas *(Retains WBC Super Featherweight Title)*	KO 9
Sept. 11	Carlos Gerena, Las Vegas *(Retains WBC Super Featherweight Title)*	KO 7
2000		
March 18	Goyo Vargas, Las Vegas *(Retains WBC Super Featherweight Title)*	W 12
Oct. 21	Emanuel Burton, Detroit, MI *(Non-Title Bout)*	KO 9

"Pretty Boy" Floyd stops Genaro Hernandez to take WBC 130-pound title

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

2001		
Jan. 20	Diego Corrales, Las Vegas	KO 10
	(Retains WBC Super Featherweight Title)	
May 26	Carlos Hernandez, Grand Rapids	W 12
	(Retains WBC Super Featherweight Title)	
Nov. 10	Jesus Chavez, San Francisco, CA	KO 9
	(Retains WBC Super Featherweight Title)	
2002		
April 20	Jose Luis Castillo, Las Vegas	W 12
	(Wins Vacant World/WBC Lightweight Title)	
Dec. 7	Jose Luis Castillo, Las Vegas	W 12
	(Retains World/WBC Lightweight Titles)	
2003		
April 19	Victoriano Sosa, Fresno, CA	W 12
	(Retains World/WBC Lightweight Titles)	
Nov. 1	Phillip N'dou, Grand Rapids, MI	KO 7
	(Retains World/WBC Lightweight Titles)	
2004		
May 22	DeMarcus Corley, Atlantic City	W 12
2005		
Jan. 22	Henry Bruseles, Miami	KO 8
June 25	Arturo Gatti, Atlantic City	KO 6
	(Wins WBC Junior Welterweight Title)	
Nov. 19	Sharmba Mitchell, Portland, OR	KO 6
2006		
April 8	Zab Judah, Las Vegas	W 12
	(Wins IBF Welterweight Title)	
Nov. 4	Carlos Manuel Baldomir, Las Vegas	W 12
	(Wins World/WBC Welterweight Titles)	

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Many consider Mayweather's kayo of Diego Corrales his finest performance

2007		
May 5	Oscar De La Hoya, Las Vegas	W 12
	(Wins WBC Super Welterweight Title)	
Dec. 8	Ricky Hatton, Las Vegas	KO 10
	(Wins WBC Welterweight Title)	
2009		
Sept. 19	Juan Manuel Marquez, Las Vegas	W 12

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KOs	NO-CONTEST
40	40	0	0	25	0

Arturo Gatti was badly outclassed by Mayweather

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

MAYWEATHER: MARK RALSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES
MOSLEY: CRAIG BENNETT/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

TALE of the TAPE

SHANE MOSLEY	VS.	FLOYD MAYWEATHER
September 7, 1971	Birthdate	February 24, 1977
Lynwood, CA	Birthplace	Grand Rapids, MI
Pomona, CA	Residence	Las Vegas, NV
46-5 (39)	Record	40-0 (25)
147 pounds	Weight*	147 pounds
5'10"	Height	5'8½"
74"	Reach	72"
16½"	Neck	16½"
39"	Chest (Normal)	39½"
42"	Chest (Expanded)	40½"
14"	Biceps	12½"
11½"	Forearm	11"
6¼"	Wrist	6½"
11½"	Fist	11"
31"	Waist	31"
22"	Thigh	22"
13¼"	Calf	15"

*Exact weights to be announced at official weigh-in

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
MOSLEY													
MAYWEATHER													

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"I AM NOT GOLOTA"

Adamek Launches Heavyweight Campaign

By Joseph Santoliquito

Tomasz Adamek looks inside his closet and shakes his head. Everything hanging there, the suits and casual clothes, no longer fit around his massive shoulders and thick neck. They haven't in some time. He plans on sending them to family members in Poland, though he hasn't yet got around to packaging them due to his busy fight schedule. But there's no doubt he's going to need the closet space for his new wardrobe.

This life adjustment is a byproduct of the former RING cruiserweight world champion venturing north into heavyweight territory. The 33-year old Pole has had only two heavyweight fights, but this is a permanent move.

The questions, however, loom like a dark cloud. Is this a good move for the 6'1", 220-pound Adamek? Did he make a major career mistake in leaving a division he dominated? Can Adamek infuse the moribund heavyweight class with some needed excitement? Will he carry his punching power? Can he take a heavyweight's punch? Is he a legitimate threat to the Klitschkos? How often have cruiserweights made the successful move up to heavyweight?

Some already feel Adamek has top-10 heavyweight potential, after he stopped Andrew Golota and then decisioned Jason Estrada, before more than 10,000 fans at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey. Against Golota, Adamek was his usual stalking self, attacking and eventually forcing the classic underachieving Golota to do what he does best—quit. Against Estrada, we saw a different style, a busy puncher who relied on quickness and endurance to win.

Adamek, 40-1 (27), has parlayed the Estrada victory into a major fight with Chris Arreola on April 24 in Ontario, California. The fight will be televised on HBO's *Boxing After Dark*. Then, if Adamek gets by Arreola, there's a possible title shot against WBA beltholder David Haye, who so far has made a successful transition from cruiserweight to heavyweight.

"I think it's a good move for Adamek, since most cruiserweights and light heavyweights are generally found on most-wanted lists and what they themselves most want is to fight heavyweight," HBO analyst Larry Merchant said. "Adamek started as a light heavyweight and cruiserweight was a stop on the highway to the heavyweight division. Now is the time for him to look for the big shot. What usually happens with the move is very few guys carry that power they had at lighter weights with them. If he beat someone like Arreola, he'd certainly put himself in line for a shot at some name heavyweight. Adamek would have to fight his way into getting either of the Klitschkos, which is where the money is."

There is, however, a huge gap between the likes of Golota and Estrada and the division's best. Golota was a high-reward, low-risk fight; Estrada was a small heavyweight with only a modest punch. Arreola and Haye carry the kind of firepower that can do damage.

"I think Adamek is capable of being a top-10 heavyweight, but if you're talking division domination, I don't think he'll be able to do that," *ShoBox* analyst Steve Farhood said. "The difference between Adamek [and others who have moved from cruiser to heavyweight] is that he's doing it in his prime. Remember also, Adamek started as a light heavyweight, and to see him at 220 is a little alarming.

"A key factor today is that cruiserweights are jumping from 200 pounds, not 190 like they did when the cruiserweights began. They're gaining 20 pounds, not 30 pounds to be heavyweights. In Adamek's case, I see him as no threat to beat the Klitschkos, because those are the guys he'll have to beat. I also know Adamek won't beat Arreola, that's if Arreola is in shape, and that's a big, heavy if. Adamek's not big enough for one thing, and another is Adamek's style is to be an aggressive, busy puncher. He's not a slickster; Estrada hit him a lot."

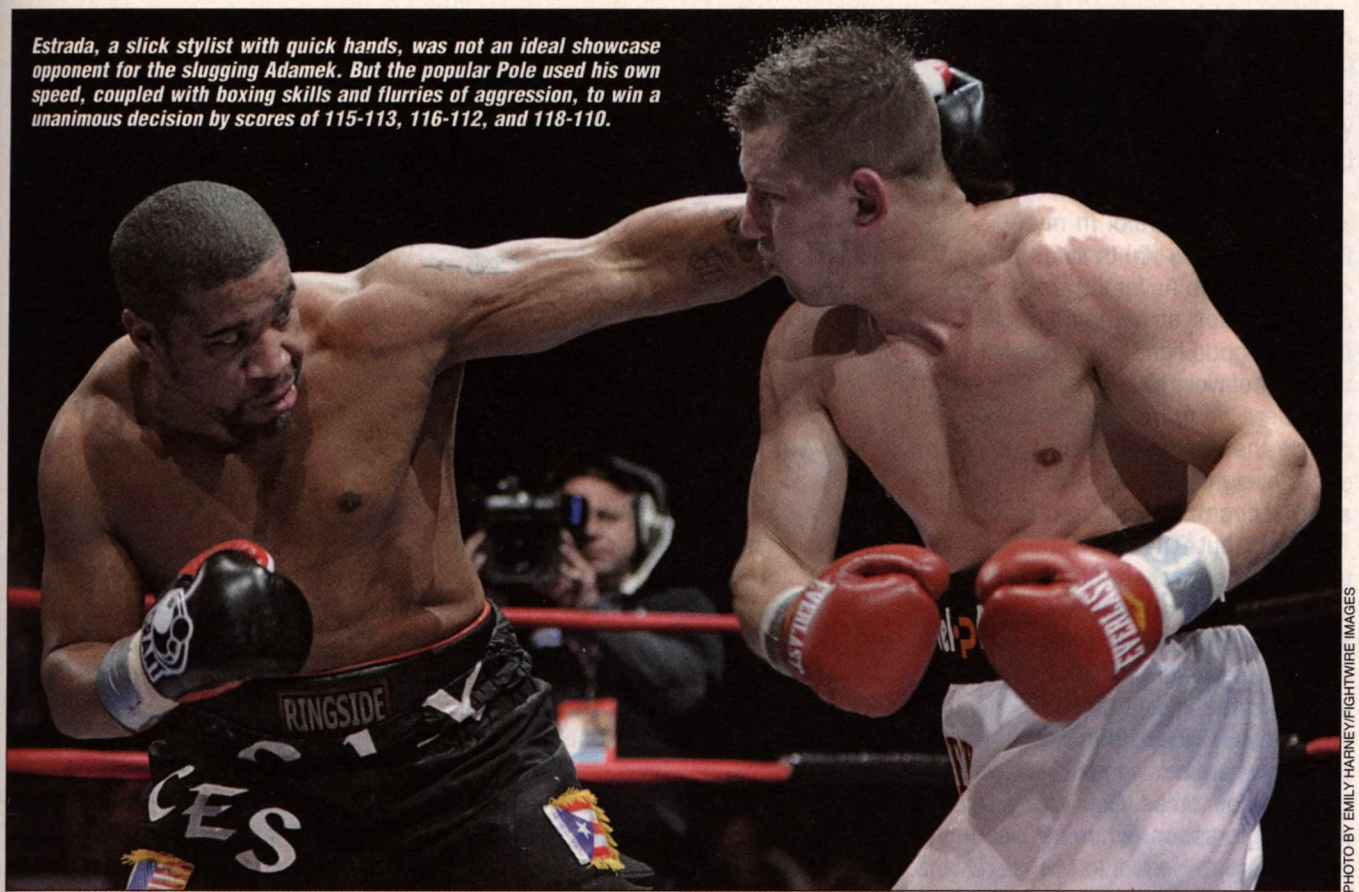
Adamek understands what he'll be facing. He could have stayed at cruiserweight, though his options there were limited. He engaged in one of the greatest cruiserweight fights of all-time when he won the vacant RING world championship against Steve Cunningham in December 2008.

Adamek waited for Bernard Hopkins, but "The Executioner" had different plans—a much easier fight against Roy Jones.

"There was no one to fight there at cruiserweight," Adamek said, through interpreter Peter Garczarczyk. "I had to make this move. Hopkins didn't want to fight me. For me and Steve Cunningham, a rematch was a good fight, but the truth is that Steve Cunningham is not a well-known name to the American public, and no one showed interest in showing the rematch on American television. I'm not

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

There is no danger that Adamek will turn into a fat slob now that he doesn't have to worry about making weight. He is a self-confessed gym rat who trains every day and stays in excellent condition. Moreover, he says he feels much better now he doesn't have to half-starve himself.



Estrada, a slick stylist with quick hands, was not an ideal showcase opponent for the slugging Adamek. But the popular Pole used his own speed, coupled with boxing skills and flurries of aggression, to win a unanimous decision by scores of 115-113, 116-112, and 118-110.

PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Although Estrada is not ranked among The Ring's top-10 heavyweight contenders, he was a major step up from the aging Andrew Golota, who Adamek stopped in Poland last October. Estrada is pictured here on the receiving end of a left from Adamek, but the Rhode Island boxer landed his share of blows too.

PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

putting Steve Cunningham down, but how many times was I going to fight him, seven, eight times? There was nothing there.

"I want to be a heavyweight because there is more opportunity out there. I'd like to fight the Klitschkos or David Haye. I'm not afraid. In my opinion, I need two more fights to be ready for the Klitschkos. As for the size, it doesn't matter. Look at Manny Pacquiao. If you're a good fighter, you can fight at a number of weight classes."

There have been some who have made the jump from cruiserweight to heavyweight successfully. The universally recognized vanguard is Evander Holyfield, but "The Real Deal" was definitely the exception, not the rule. Far more have failed than succeeded. Al "Ice" Cole knows what it was like moving from cruiserweight to heavyweight.

Cole was 26-1 and the IBF cruiserweight titlist when he moved to heavyweight, where he's gone 8-14-3 and been stopped four times. Cole was in against Tim Witherspoon, when he was still a viable threat. He lost to Michael Grant, when he was on the way up, and then Cole devolved into journeyman status.

He battled and lost to some good heavyweights, such as Kirk Johnson, Corrie Sanders, David Bostice, and Jameel McCline. He lost to some ordinary heavyweights, too, like when he was decisioned by Sedrick Fields.

During one span, Cole went 1-9-1, going five years before he put consecutive victories together. Cole said part of that lapse was due to a car accident that injured his back, some personal trauma he was dealing with, and a lack of discipline.

But why did Cole make the move in the first place?

"That's easy, for the money, I took a lot of those fights for the money, which was double what I made as a cruiserweight with a belt," Cole said. "I honestly had a tough time making cruiserweight; I was weighing 220, 225 pounds and I had to come down to make 190. Heavyweight was much easier for me to be honest, because most heavyweights are slow and lazy. Look at today's heavyweights, and these guys fighting for a title are a complete joke. You have guys like Kevin Johnson and Arreola—complete jokes. They made Vitali Klitschko look like King Kong. Today's heavyweights are garbage. American heavyweights are just lazy.

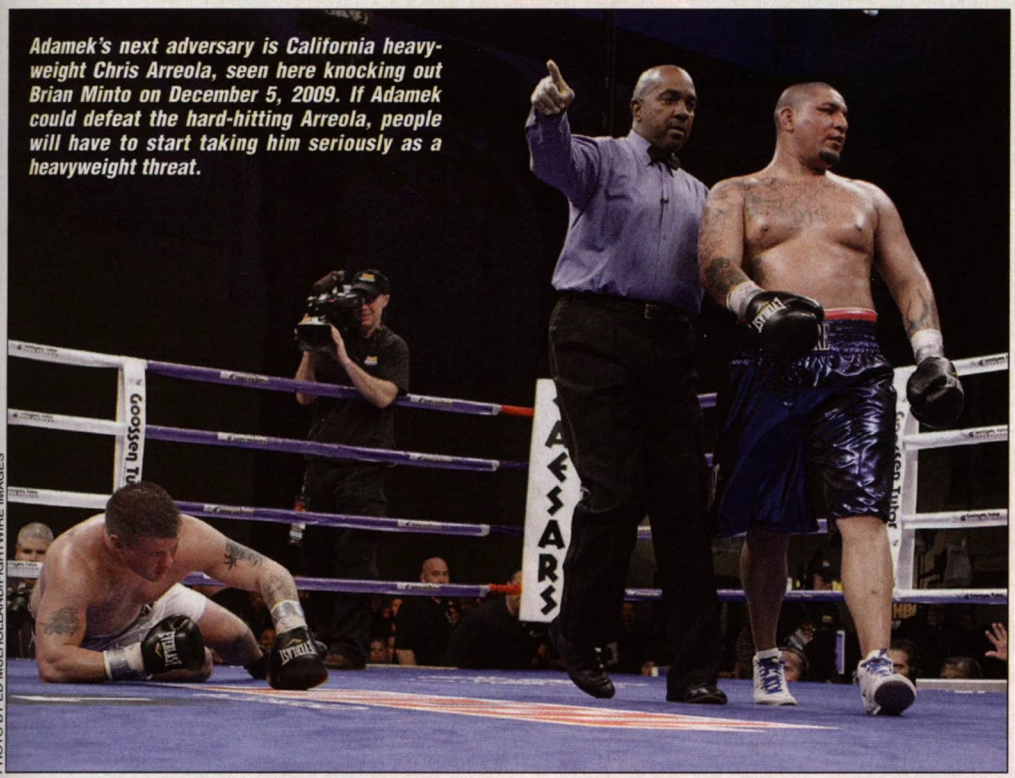
"My advice to Adamek is to fight the big boys. My problem was that I was lazy and didn't put in the commitment the way I should have. This is what happens when you move up. I had to run to make 190. There were some days when you don't feel like running or making that commitment. There were days when you want to skip the run. At heavyweight, when a day comes when you don't want to run, you don't run."

However, that's not Adamek. He won't turn into James Toney. He actually looked pretty good physically against Estrada. He works out every day and his resistance training has increased 30 to 35 percent.

"I completely understand what boxing is, and it's especially more at heavyweight, you can die in the ring," Adamek said. "This is real life to me. Whoever knows me from when I was younger, I'm a gym rat. I love to work. It's just stupid to not train. That's not me. I'm eating well at home. I can control what I am eating. I absolutely love being a heavyweight and this new size. I don't have to go hungry

PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

More than 10,000 fans turned out during a blizzard to cheer Adamek on to victory against Estrada. As Main Events matchmaker J Russell Peltz is quick to point out, Adamek is the only heavyweight fighting in the U.S. who can draw five-figure crowds on a regular basis.



Adamek's next adversary is California heavyweight Chris Arreola, seen here knocking out Brian Minto on December 5, 2009. If Adamek could defeat the hard-hitting Arreola, people will have to start taking him seriously as a heavyweight threat.

PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

six months of the year like I had to make light heavy. I can have a normal dinner and everything else; I have no problem with 220. But I understand this is a learning process."

Beating Estrada was a nice step. The ironic twist is that Estrada, 16-3 (4), was not the opponent that J Russell Peltz, Main Events matchmaker, wanted. The Hall of Fame promoter had concerns about Estrada's difficult style and knew he was a tough opponent to look good against. Peltz felt there might have been too much credence given to Adamek's fifth-round stoppage of the used-up, shop-worn, never-was Golota in October 2009.

Peltz feels it's too early to tell whether or not Adamek will be a successful heavyweight. But he's sure of one thing: Adamek has the best following of any American-based heavyweight today. More proof came when he attracted 10,123 on a very bad night in Newark against Estrada, when the Northeast area of the country was socked by a major snowstorm.

"Think about it, Adamek is the only fighter right now, with the exception of Pacquiao, who can draw paying customers to a fight without casino backing," said Peltz, who considered Grant or former heavyweight champion Hasim Rahman as possible future Adamek opponents before Adamek signed to fight Arreola. "This is a business. Any way you look at it, this is a business. Adamek doesn't need Arreola. Right now, Adamek needs to sharpen his skills and his craft as a heavyweight. He can make money and get better staying where he is, fighting at the Prudential Center, where he's built something unique.

"He has a great fan base in Newark. He's the most popular heavyweight in the United States right now. It could take a year to hone his skills, but Adamek isn't someone that a network can dictate to him who he has to fight. Think about it, who in this country sells tickets for fights on their own?"

It is a good question and a hammer Adamek can wield when negotiating future venues. Sure, he's not drawing 60,000 to soccer stadiums like Wladimir or Vitali Klitschko, but being able to consistently draw over 10,000 loyal fans is power in the U.S.

Holyfield and Michael Spinks, the only light heavyweight to move up and win the heavyweight championship (Roy Jones only won a portion of the heavyweight title when he beat John Ruiz in March 2003), had built national fan bases off their Olympic successes. Until 2004, Adamek fought his entire career in Europe and had no foundation to build on in the United States, other than his appeal to Polish-Americans. He's since relocated to North Jersey and has lived in the United States for a year now.

"I know it sounds crazy, but 10,000-plus people don't lie; it says I'm doing something right," Adamek said. "The first thing I look for, what fight would be interesting for the fans. I don't like to fight people who have a boring style. People want to see something drastic. That's what I provide.

"I was there in Atlantic City to see Arreola's fight against Brian Minto [in December 2009] and there wasn't even 3,000 people there. I've been living in New Jersey for a year, and I have such a following, so I must be doing something right. We Poles in America try to stick together; but I think I'm getting more and more American fans."

The only way to beat the Klitschkos is to get inside. They're defined in some boxing circles as big, strong—and boring. They keep opponents on the outside, take very few risks, and chip away until their foes break down. The only way to beat them is to get inside. Can Adamek do it?

"I have to beat them with speed and quickness," Adamek said. "I want to hit them so much and make them so tired, they won't be able to fight back. I moved up to heavyweight, because it's become too boring. I know this will take time. I also know people might see me as another Golota, because we're both from Poland. *I'm not Golota.* It's not in my vocabulary to say quit. I'm deeply religious and I have a special mission: I can't disappoint God or my fans. I'd sooner die than to quit."

Then Adamek paused, because he has another mission ...

"I have a bunch of family members in Poland looking forward to getting my suits," he said, laughing. "They're waiting for them right now. I haven't bought this many new clothes since I was a teenager. It comes with being a heavyweight." ■

PHOTOS BY TOM HOGAN/GOLDEN BOY PROMOTIONS

CONFLICTED INTEREST

Vazquez-Marquez IV Combines Maximum Excitement With Maximum Concern

By Eric Raskin

It is believed that the cliché "too much of a good thing" dates back to William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, authored more than 400 years ago. The Bard didn't have the pleasure of witnessing the ring exploits of Israel Vazquez and Rafael Marquez, but his wording lives on nearly half a millennium after he took quill to paper, and many boxing observers are wondering if his phrase applies to the rivalry between these two Mexican-born marvels.

That the Vazquez-Marquez trilogy was a "good thing" is beyond dispute. Whether a fourth fight is "too much" is the hot topic as their scheduled May 22 battle at Staples Center in Los Angeles nears.

What Vazquez and Marquez put each other through in their first three fights was 90 percent awe-inspiring, 10 percent horrifying. Twenty-five rounds of nonstop action spread over 364 days provided one TKO loss apiece, four

total knockdowns (and about a dozen near-knockdown wobbles), one busted nose, one detached retina, countless cuts and swellings, two Fights of the Year, and two Rounds of the Year. From fight to fight, round to round, and moment-to-moment, nothing played out predictably. The man who seemed in total control was always the next to be badly hurt. The man who prevailed in each fight looked headed for certain defeat a time or three along the way.

In a decade loaded with great trilogies, you can make an excellent case for Vazquez-Marquez being the best of them. The second Marco Antonio Barrera-Erik Morales fight was a mild letdown. Same with the second Arturo Gatti-Micky Ward fight. And the third Manny Pacquiao-Morales fight was far too brief and one-sided. There was no valley alongside the peaks of the Vazquez-Marquez trilogy. The first fight was damn good, the second one even better, and the third one, in the opinion of many, took the drama to its highest level.

So why wouldn't everyone want to see them do it again? Because with boxing, there are a lot of warnings in the fine print on the label. Hard fights may cause dizziness, nausea, and a variety of more dire symptoms either immediately or later in life. And a Vazquez-Marquez meeting is nothing if not a hard fight.

"I've got to admit, as much as I want to see them do it again, I'm kind of conflicted," said veteran broadcaster Steve Albert, who provided blow-by-blow commentary for Showtime for each of the first three fights. "How can you put two people through this again? You wonder, will it come back to haunt them later in life? You always think about stuff like that.

"I've never called a fight—or in this case, a series of fights—where there was such nonstop action. And being that close, you could really see the force of the punches, and you'd cringe at the brutality. You'd have to cringe, otherwise you're not human."

Fear for the fighters' health is one reason to be hesitant about a fourth fight. The other reason is the belief that you don't mess with perfection. The third fight provided a cinematic ending, with Vazquez rallying to knock Marquez down in the final seconds and pull out a split decision in the fight and in the series as a whole. A fourth fight could turn out to be the equivalent of Leonardo Da Vinci looking at the finished Mona Lisa, deciding to add just a few more brushstrokes, and when it's done her eyes don't quite follow you around the room anymore.

"It feels like it's over already. It doesn't feel like they should fight again," opined boxing writer and photographer Chris Cozzone, who was among the few journalists lucky enough to cover all three Vazquez-Marquez fights from ringside. "When the third one ended, I felt immediately like I didn't need to see a fourth one. I just felt perfectly satisfied with all the drama and all the action, so why put them through another fight?"

The reasons why are simple: Because there's nobody else for either of them to fight right now who can earn them as much money, and because even those who are somewhat morally opposed to the fourth fight wouldn't miss it for the world.

"It's a fight where everybody says, 'Well, I don't know if they should be

PHOTO BY TOM HOGAN/GOLDEN BOY PROMOTIONS

Vazquez returned from a lengthy layoff due to eye surgery to stop Angel Antonio Priolo in the ninth on October 10, 2009, in Los Angles. As is his wont, Vazquez took quite a lot of punishment before prevailing with a trio of knockdowns in the ninth round.

In his first and only bout since the third fight with Vazquez, Marquez looked a bit rusty but had little trouble disposing of Colombia's Jose Francisco Mendoza in the third round on May 23, 2009, in Monterrey, Mexico.

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

fighting each other,' but when it comes down to it, they're all going to watch," said Gary Shaw, who promotes Marquez. "People say one thing and they do something else."

Shaw explained that neither fighter had any other options for making paydays approaching what they'll get for the fourth installment of their series. Neither Showtime nor any of the promoters would reveal financial specifics, but Shaw did reveal that, "it's more than they got for the third fight." For that epic rubber match, Vazquez was paid $750,000 and Marquez $425,000. So we have a general idea of what they're getting to do it again, and for junior featherweights in a struggling economy with tightened budgets, those numbers are respectable. Maybe they're not fair when you see less entertaining fighters like Floyd Mayweather, Bernard Hopkins, or the Klitschko brothers earning several times that amount even for tune-up fights, but the money seems to be enough to justify the risk.

"If they want to do it again, I'm happy to go along and support that," said Showtime Sports Senior Vice President Ken Hershman. "I wasn't hesitant to make the fight on account of the physical punishment. That's their sport; that's what they bought into. There are risks against any opponent. My question was: Is there a need for a fourth? We've sort of seen it all. If I had any hesitancy, that would have been the reason. But at the same time, this is the most exciting and compelling matchup that's out there for each guy. They are perfectly suited for each other, and it's been so entertaining. I mean, we're talking about three of the best fights of all-time."

Hershman brought up one particularly salient point: There are risks no matter whom these guys fight. They're not young fighters. Vazquez is 32, and Marquez will be 35 on fight night. They've

PHOTO BY TOM HOGAN/GOLDEN BOY PROMOTIONS

Vazquez and Marquez pose with Vazquez' belts prior to their third fight. Vazquez has since relinquished THE RING *junior featherweight championship to campaign at featherweight.*

had long careers (both turned pro in 1995) and more than their fair share of grueling fights (particularly Vazquez, who has also been in Fight of the Year contenders against Jhonny Gonzalez and Oscar Larios).

After their brutal third fight, both took long layoffs to heal. Vazquez had a detached retina and ended up inactive for 19 months. Marquez wanted to take some time to let his body recover, then found himself waiting for Vazquez so they could make a fourth fight. And before he knew it, he went 14 months without competing. When they both did return to the ring, neither looked like the pound-for-pound top-10 fighters they had been in 2007 and '08.

Fighting Colombian clubfighter Jose Francisco Mendoza last May, Marquez looked terribly rusty for two rounds, then got on track and flashed his vaunted one-punch power, icing Mendoza with a big right hand and a brief follow-up combination in the third.

If Marquez looked a little off his game, Vazquez looked downright washed up when he finally got back in the ring against Angel Priolo last September. Priolo, a Colombian fighter of limited

THE FIRST THREE WARS

Which of the first three Vazquez-Marquez fights was the best? That's almost like asking parents to pick between their three kids. We loved them all. In case you haven't had a chance to re-watch them recently, here's a quick recap of each classic battle:

Marquez KO 7 Vazquez, March 3, 2007: It didn't take long for each fighter to make the other aware of the danger packed within his gloves. Marquez broke Vazquez' nose in the very first round, and Vazquez came back to knock Marquez down with a left hook in the third. Marquez controlled certain moments with his jackhammer jab, but Vazquez was punishing him to the body every step of the way. Before that bodywork could take full effect, however, Vazquez' nose worsened to the point that he couldn't breathe through it, leading his trainer, Freddie Roach, to pull the plug at the end of the seventh.

Vazquez KO 6 Marquez, August 4, 2007: Marquez jabbed less and hooked more and it was bombs-away from the start

Marquez broke Vazquez' nose in the first fight

PHOTO BY JAN SANDERS

ability like Mendoza, had lost six in a row prior to fighting Vazquez, but he turned in an inspired effort and the fight was even on two scorecards after eight punishing rounds. Vazquez had a bad cut over his left eye and needed to reach into his seemingly limitless reservoir of drama, so he did exactly that, rallying in the ninth of a scheduled 10 for three knockdowns and a TKO win.

So are Marquez and Vazquez' hourglasses running out, or do they just need more than one fight's worth of work to get back to where they were? That remains to be seen. But ask yourself this: If you were managing either of these great thirtysomething fighters, would you be comfortable putting them in with someone like the 26-year-old Juan Manuel Lopez or the 28-year-old Yuriorkis Gamboa? Maybe Vazquez and Marquez are on their last legs, maybe not, but would you want to match them with a prime, quick-fisted, hard-punching talent to find out?

With that in mind, maybe it's actually safer for them to fight each other than to fight any other world-class opponents right now.

But then again, boxing history has shown us that a long, grueling fight is

Vazquez finishes strong to take third bout

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

in 2007's Fight of the Year. The third round, named Round of the Year by THE RING, saw both men hurt, first Marquez, then Vazquez, and it was all that ref Jose Garcia could do to separate them at the bell. Vazquez was cut over both eyes in the round, but he had more in the tank afterward. A left hook dropped Marquez in the sixth, and though he rose bravely, he never quite got his legs back and was stumbling backward toward a corner under Vazquez' follow-up assault when Garcia, somewhat controversially, stepped in at 1:16 of the sixth

Vazquez W 12 Marquez, March 1, 2008: Marquez tried to get back to the jab that served him well in the first fight, but it wasn't long before the brawl was on. And how could Marquez be expected to stop swinging for the fences after he dropped Vazquez with a right in round four? Vazquez got back up, however, and had Marquez in trouble by the end of the round, capping THE RING'S 2008 Round of the Year. They battled on, Vazquez cut around both eyes, Marquez' left eye swelling shut, and though Marquez seemed to have built a slight lead, he lost a point in the 10th for a low blow and was fading in the championship rounds. Vazquez needed to win round 12 to get a draw and he needed to score a knockdown to win, and in the ultimate dramatic finish, he got that knockdown with just seconds to go when the ropes held Marquez up. Two judges were split at 114-111 for each fighter, while the third had it 113-112 for Vazquez, giving him the split decision in their second consecutive Fight of the Year.

—E.R.

more likely to do lasting damage than a quick knockout loss. And Vazquez and Marquez have proven repeatedly that they can hurt each other, that they know how to find the other's openings, and that their styles combine perfectly for brutal punchouts.

You can debate internally where the greatest danger lies and seesaw back and forth every time you think about it.

Similarly, there's plenty of room to debate what the outcome will be on the night of May 22.

"Because of what happened in the third fight, I believe the onus is on Marquez to adjust," Albert said. "I think he has to keep his distance and box. He has to use his speed and accuracy to neutralize Vazquez' power and inside pressure. Vazquez wants to bring the pressure and force Marquez into another slugfest, with Vazquez throwing those vicious bodyshots. Clearly, Marquez should not trade left hooks with Vazquez. The problem is once Marquez sees blood, he'll probably brawl. And cuts are usually a factor for Vazquez, so there's a pretty good chance Marquez *will* see blood. I've always felt that Marquez had the edge in skills and Vazquez hits harder. In terms of heart and guts, that's a toss-up. They're evenly matched in so many ways."

Albert couldn't make an official pick because there's a chance he'll end up calling the fourth fight for Showtime, and he considers it professionally inappropriate to make a prediction about a fight he broadcasts.

OPENING-ACT ACTION

It goes without saying that Vazquez-Marquez IV has Fight of the Year potential. But the whole Showtime broadcast from the Staples Center also has Card of the Year potential, thanks to an outstanding co-feature: Yonnhy Perez vs. Abner Mares in a bantamweight 12-rounder.

The 31-year-old Colombian Perez is coming off a breakthrough year in '09 that saw him score minor upsets over Silence Mabuza and Joseph Agbeko in entertaining fashion. The Agbeko fight earned him an alphabet belt, and his first defense comes against arguably the division's brightest prospect.

Mares en route to 12-round decision over Marchiano

PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Cozzone, on the other hand, was able to express a definitive viewpoint on who will have the edge.

"I think Marquez will even the score," he said. "That's based on Marquez looking rusty in his comeback fight but not looking fragile. Vazquez looked fragile in his comeback fight. He's injury-prone, and I just think he has more wear and tear on him than Marquez has."

That may be, but Vazquez has also had Marquez' number the last two times out. Which edge for which man will win out in the end is a question that we won't know the answer until the fourth chapter of this rivalry is complete.

It's a chapter many fans and journalists have expressed opposition to, but it's a chapter that you can't possibly skip and still call yourself a fight fan.

There's a sort of schizophrenia among the fight community over Vazquez-Marquez IV. We know we'll be entertained. But we might, on some level, despise ourselves for watching two likely Hall of Famers taking years off each other's careers—and possibly each other's lives. We know we'll get our money's worth and then some. But it's blood money. And if ever you went into a fight certain that blood would be spilled, this is it.

We want to see blood—but we only want to see so much. Hopefully Vazquez and Marquez will go right up to that line without going over it and, for the second time, provide a perfect ending for their rivalry. ■

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

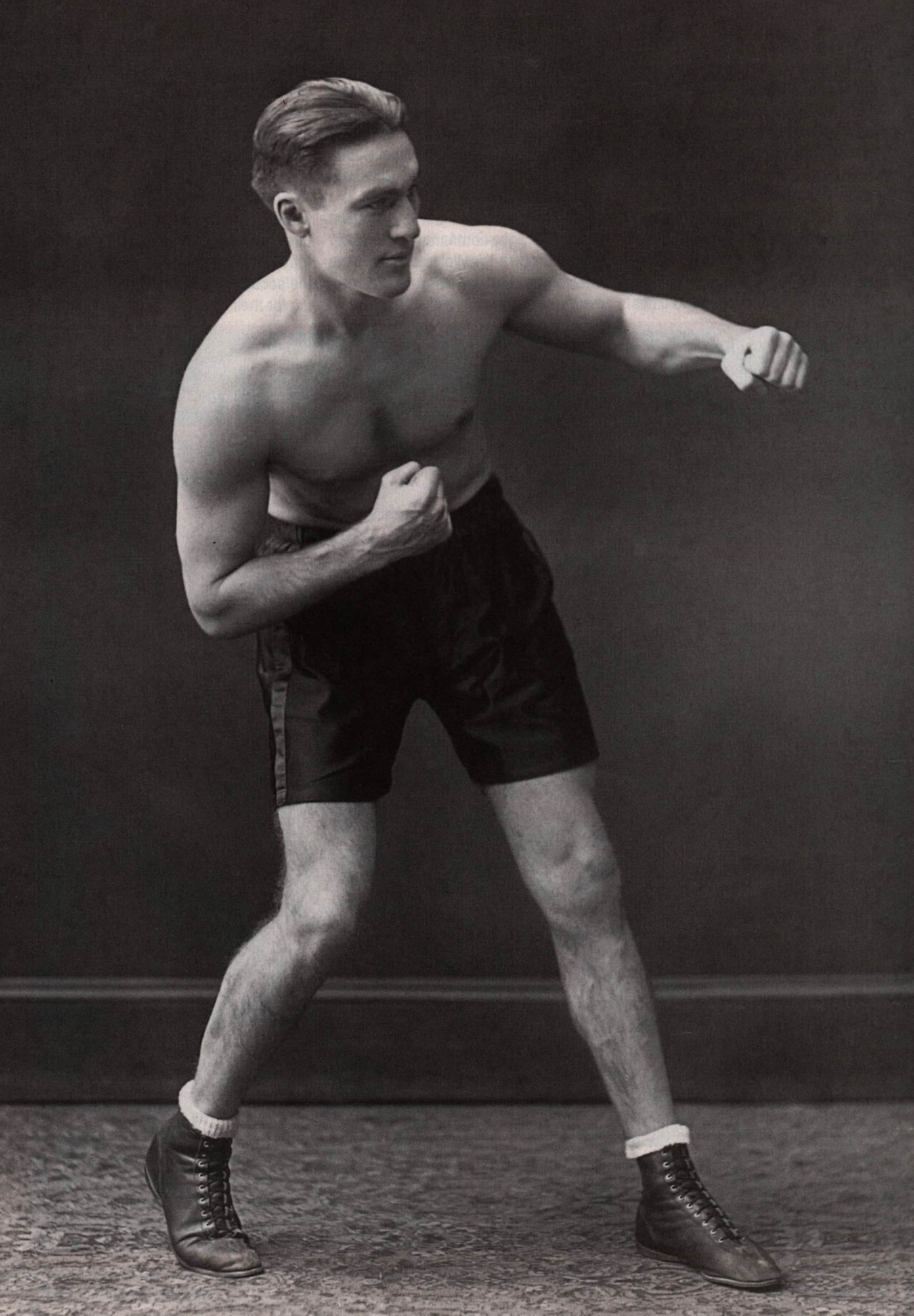
Perez lands a left hook to Joseph Agbeko's face

Mares, a 24-year-old who represented Mexico in the '04 Olympics, has been brought along gradually by Golden Boy Promotions, passing each test, but not yet facing anyone remotely comparable to the rangy and versatile Perez. The best fighters on Mares' resume are probably Diosdado Gabi (who was dismissed in two rounds) and Damian David Marchiano (who lasted 12 but took a pounding from Mares).

It looks on the surface like an action fight and a highly competitive one at that, the X-factor being that Perez has tangled with the division's best, whereas Mares is unproven at this level. One thing they have in common is their undefeated records. Perez is 20-0 (14) and Mares is 19-0 (12), and with Mares apparently planning on a tune-up fight in March, the wins and losses could be identical when the bell rings.

Perez' road to 20-0 has been the far tougher of the two. And neither man's road to 21-0 is going to be easily traversed.

—E.R.



TOMMY LOUGHRAN

The Greatest Philadelphia Fighter Of All-Time

By Don Stradley

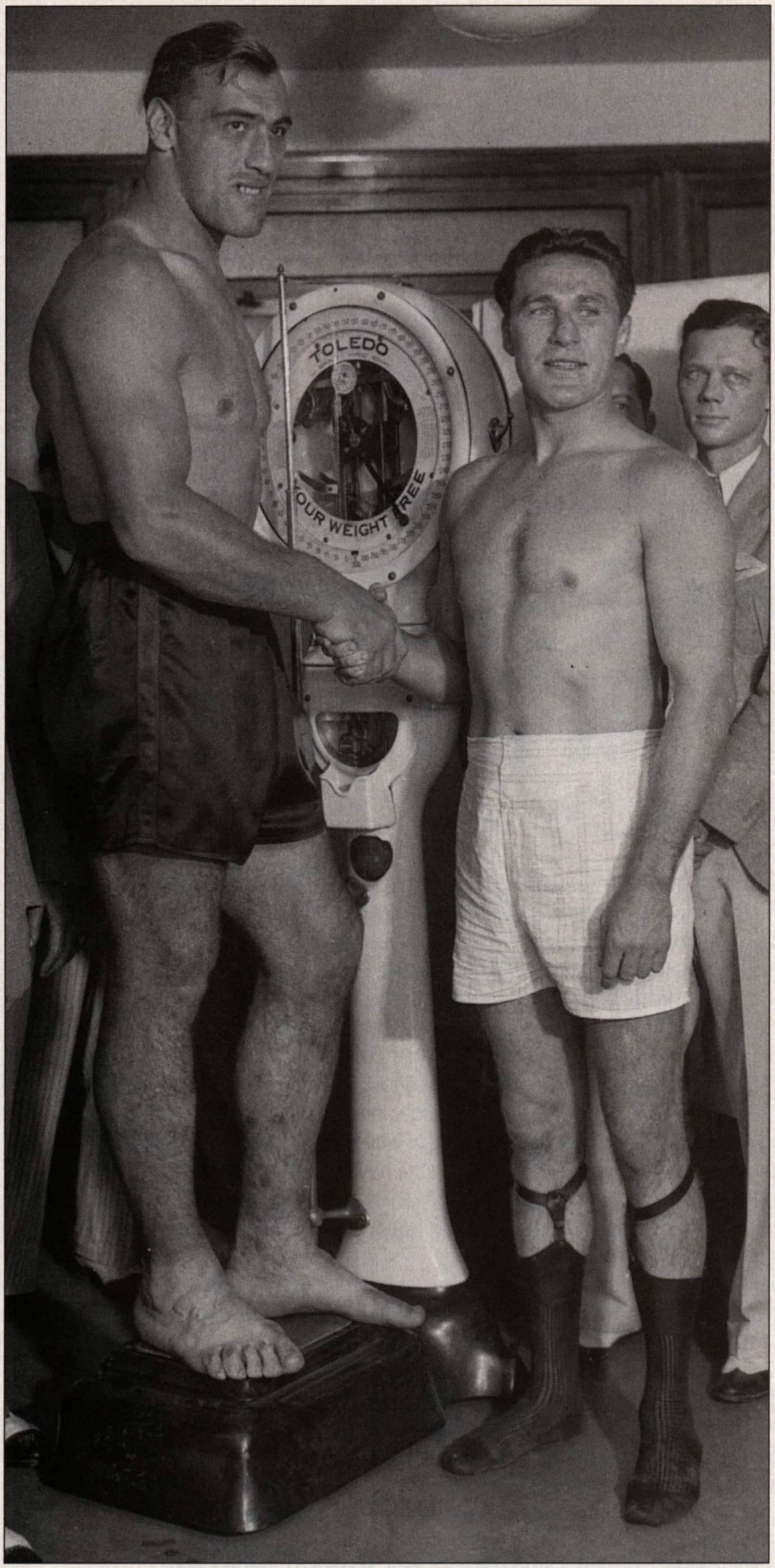
For several rain-drenched days in February 1934, a pair of gigantic shoes belonging to heavyweight champion Primo Carnera stood filled with pennies in a Miami store window. Free fight tickets would go to whoever guessed most accurately their contents. There weren't many takers, for even though Miami was one of the few American cities to prosper during the Depression, Carnera's upcoming bout with Tommy Loughran was a hard sell. The main reason, aside from the miserable weather, was that Carnera was a 6'6", 270-pound brute who looked like an armor-plated dinosaur, while Loughran was an aging light heavyweight who'd recently learned the betting odds were 5-to-1 against him.

"In one way that's fine," Loughran said at the time. "The underdog has a nice psychological advantage." Still, Loughran resented the sad looks on the faces of well-wishers, as if he were undertaking a hopeless, and perhaps fatal, endeavor. "I don't like to have people feeling sorry for me, particularly when I know I'm going to win," Loughran said. True, he was a bit battle-worn at 31, but as he told a Miami newspaper, "Modesty out the window, Carnera never saw the day he could begin to box with me."

His confidence was well-founded, for Loughran was a master boxer with a left jab that seemed charged by electricity. Known as "The Philadelphia Phantom," Loughran possessed a big dollop of toughness to go along with his cleverness. In six bouts with Harry Greb, Loughran was 1-2-1 with 2 no-decisions. He'd also held his own in a no-decision bout against future heavyweight champion Gene Tunney. When Loughran was hired as a sparring partner for Jack Dempsey, he nearly ruined the legendary champ's Hollywood nose job. At a time when the light heavyweight class was riddled with future Hall of Famers, Loughran reigned for two years as that division's undisputed champion.

Loughran was, by all accounts, among the best to ever practice the sweet science of boxing. And in his hands, it was truly a science.

Born in Philadelphia on November 29, 1902, Loughran once said, "I grew up with the idea in my mind that I was destined to be a boxer and that was all I wanted to do. I knew from the time I was a boy, I was shaping my life toward it."



Massive heavyweight champion Primo Carnera weighs in for his 1934 title defense against Loughran, who gave away 86 pounds to the "Ambling Alp." Despite Loughran's star-studded resume, the bout was a hard sell due to the huge disparity in size.

One tale, possibly cooked up by a creative press agent, had Loughran learn boxing when he joined the Marines at age 14 (a recruiter believed he was 23). Loughran later turned the basement of his parent's home into a boxing laboratory, complete with punching bags and wall-to-wall mirrors to study his movements. Unable to find a timekeeper's clock, he would put a dance tune on a phonograph player, each song lasting about the length of a three-minute round. Perhaps for that reason, Loughran's movements often seemed in synch with some distant music.

Loughran turned professional in 1919 and often claimed to have participated in over 200 bouts. The official record book shows 172 bouts, including 94 wins, 23 losses, 9 draws, 45 no-decisions, and 17 knockouts. Loughran was chosen as THE RING's Fighter of the Year in 1929 and 1931, and in 1991 he was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame. Loughran's name doesn't have the instant recognition associated with the other great fighters of his day, partly because he didn't knock opponents onto the laps of reporters, but among the hardcore fight nuts in Philadelphia, his name still registers.

"There's always some argument over who was the greatest fighter to come from Philadelphia," said longtime Philadelphia fight promoter, Don Elbaum. "It's usually between Joe Frazier and Tommy. Personally, I'd put Tommy at number one, because I think Tommy, with his great chin and his great jab, would beat Frazier."

J Russell Peltz, another Philly promoter and fight historian, also ranks Loughran as Philadelphia's best. "If people place Frazier over Loughran, it's only because they've never heard of Loughran," Peltz told THE RING. "Don't get me wrong, Frazier was great, but sometimes I give more credit to a fighter who isn't a big puncher but wins a lot of decisions, because that means he had to dominate his opponents with nothing but boxing ability."

Loughran's halcyon days began with a decision over Emilio "King" Solomon on Christmas Day, 1925. He was nearly unhittable during the next four years, going undefeated in 38 bouts. This included his victory over Mike McTigue

Loughran (left) squares off with light heavyweight champion Mike McTigue prior to their 1923 no-decision match in Philadelphia. In 1927, Loughran won the 175-pound crown by outpointing McTigue in New York. Loughran made five successful defenses.

for the light heavyweight championship and six successful title defenses.

Already quick, Loughran improved his quickness by sparring with flyweights. "I could sucker a fellow into almost anything," Loughran said. Young Stribling, who'd previously earned a pair of close wins over Loughran, was trounced by the Loughran of this period, as was Jimmy Slattery, Georges Carpentier, and Mickey Walker. Loughran's winning streak culminated in a bloody 15-round decision over James J. Braddock at Yankee Stadium.

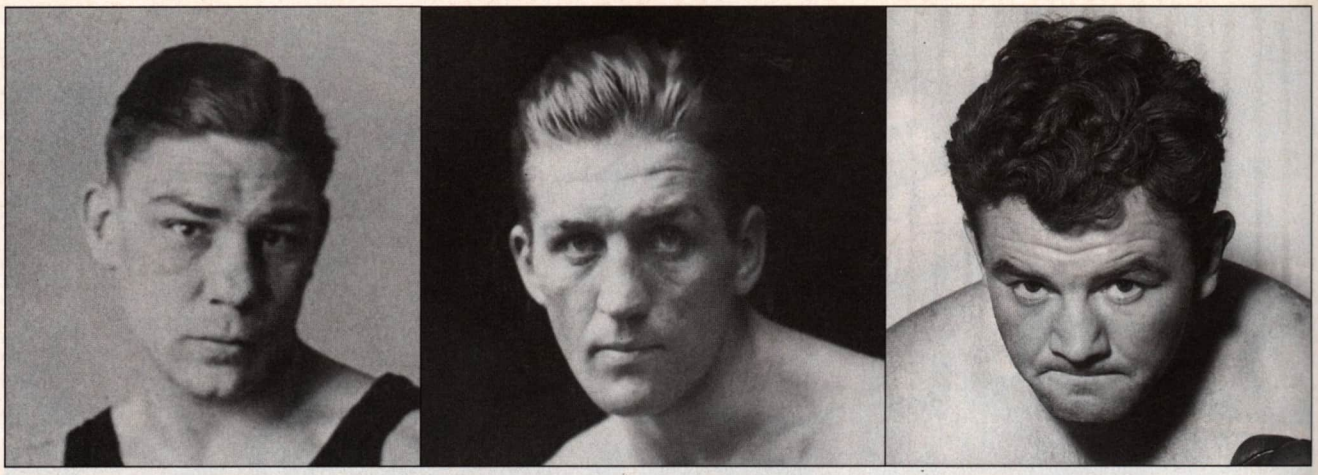
When Tunney retired as heavyweight champion, Loughran joined the stampede to replace him. Unfortunately, in one of the early bouts promoted to name Tunney's successor, Loughran suffered an embarrassing knockout loss to Jack Sharkey, the first of only two kayo losses in his long career. Fans were shocked to see the crafty Loughran so easily dispatched, for he'd been one of the favorites to succeed Tunney.

Loughran gradually regrouped and found some success at heavyweight, totally befuddling Max Baer, winning two of three over King Levinsky, and shredding the elephantine trio of Victorio Campolo, Walter Cobb, and Ray Impellitiere ("The Cold Spring Mammoth"). But during these years, Loughran saw his opponent's hand raised almost as often as his own.

Part of the problem was that Loughran's right hand had become all but useless. "The covering of the knuckles just got so enflamed that when I hit someone I could hardly keep from screaming," Loughran said.

Loughran put himself back in the title picture with a decision over Sharkey in 1933, avenging his earlier loss. It was a brilliant performance, the best Loughran had looked in years. Popular columnist Hype Igoe wrote, "I've seldom seen a big fellow outwitted so thoroughly as was Jack Sharkey, whose rage at missing (Loughran) sometimes had him boiling like a kettle of doughnut grease."

Still, few gave Loughran a chance against Carnera, who'd never impressed anyone with his talent but frightened them with his shear dimensions. In *The Harder They Fall*, Budd Schulberg's fictionalized account of Carnera's career, the main character was described this way: "His hands were monstrous, the size of his feet was monstrous, and his oversized head instantly became my conception of the Neanderthal Man who roamed this world some 40,000 years ago." When Ernie Schaaf, already injured from a previous bout, died after fighting Carnera, New York State



Among the future Hall of Famers Loughran beat were (from left to right): Harry Greb, Georges Carpentier, and Jimmy Braddock.

Carnera swings and misses Loughran with a roundhouse right during their 1934 heavyweight title bout in Miami, Florida. Loughran did well early, but faded in the late rounds, which allowed Carnera to retain the title with a 15-round unanimous decision.

Athletic Commissioner William Muldoon proposed a "dreadnaught" division for oversized heavyweights.

After two cancellations due to bad weather, the Carnera-Loughran bout took place during a mild rain shower on March 1, 1934, at Miami's Madison Square Garden Stadium. Carnera, outweighing Loughran by 86 pounds, found a novel way to slow Loughran's nimble movement: He'd simply raise an enormous foot and mash down on Loughran's instep. If Loughran tried to work inside, Carnera would simply hug Loughran and swing him around like a rag doll. Dancing on sore feet (and allegedly a broken toe), Loughran landed enough jabs to stir the crowd and even landed some hard hooks that caused Carnera to shudder like a stunned cow. Unfortunately, Carnera's bulk was too much to overcome; Loughran grew dog-tired and lost a 15-round decision.

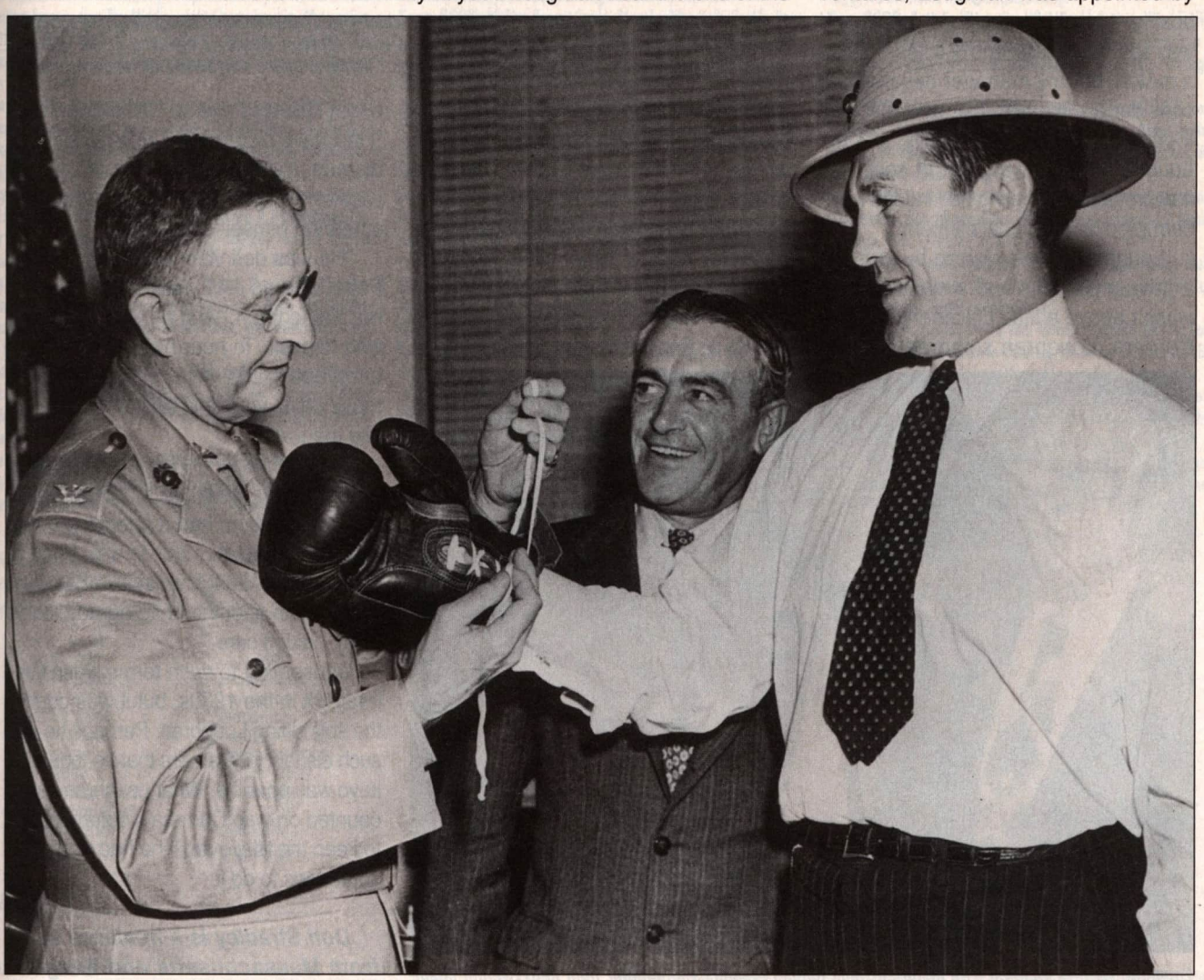
Loughran complained that referee Leo Shea should've penalized Carnera for his heavy feet, as well as his continuous fouling. Meanwhile, Carnera, praised his little challenger, telling *The New York Times*, "Tommy Loughran is the greatest fighter I ever met. I learned more about boxing in that one fight than I did in all the others put together."

Historically, the bout has been remembered as a fiasco, memorialized for decades in the *Guinness Book of World Records* because of the great weight disparity. Contemporary reports, however, don't support the bout's farcical reputation. *Time*'s correspondent described it as "an exciting contest between a clever, courageous boxer and a nervous, clumsy monster, embarrassed by his own size and the hostility of the crowd."

Long forgotten is that Carnera nearly kayoed Loughran near the end of the 14th, trapping Loughran on the ropes and landing enough clubbing shots that Loughran walked dizzily to the wrong corner at the round's end. The Associated Press reported, "The Philadelphian reeled drunkenly and would certainly have crashed down had the ropes not held him up." Loughran would tell the A.P. many years later, "I don't remember finishing the 15th round."

Ironically, Carnera would soon lose the heavyweight championship to Baer, and Baer in turn lost to Braddock. Baer and Braddock, men Loughran had already beaten, became celebrated figures of Depression era America, while Loughran began a slow fade to black. Touring South America, England, and Canada, Loughran won only 12 of his next 24 bouts. After splitting a pair with a novice named Sonny Boy Walker, Loughran retired.

In 1940, after several failed business ventures, Loughran was appointed by

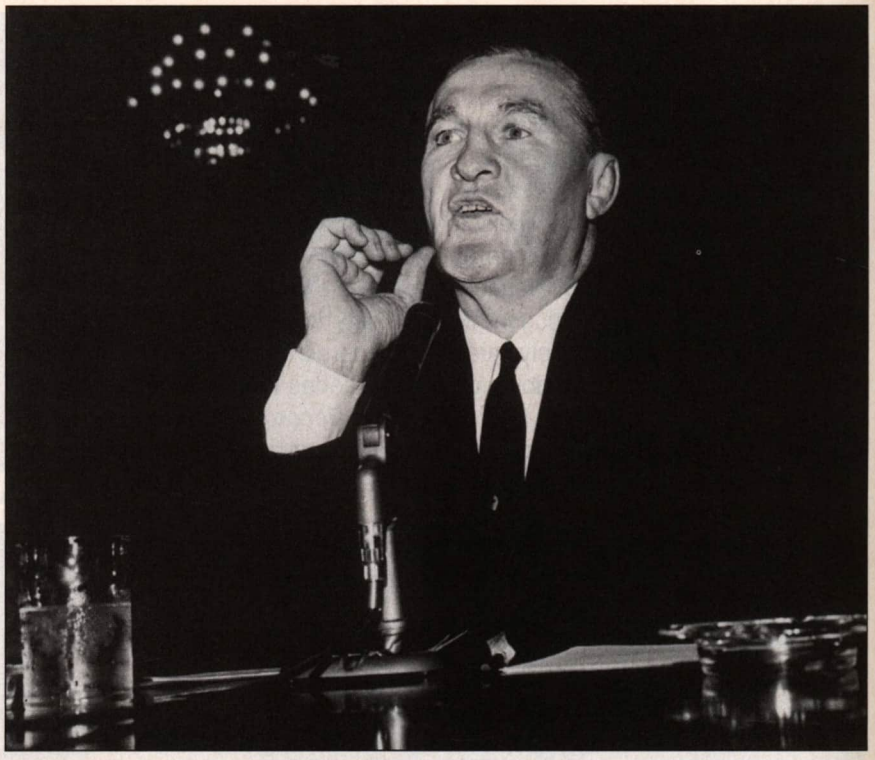


When Loughran joined the Marines in 1942, he became a boxing instructor at Parris Island, North Carolina. That's colonel Dudley Smith putting on the gloves.

Philadelphia Mayor Robert Lamberton to be "executive secretary and supervisor" of the city's bureau of recreation. During World War II, Loughran was a Marine boxing instructor at Parris Island, North Carolina. Loughran later enjoyed a career on Wall Street and created a role for himself as an after dinner speaker, particularly on the boxing banquet circuit.

In 1956, Columbia Pictures released *The Harder They Fall*, a film based on Schulberg's book. After Carnera unsuccessfully tried to sue Columbia for, among other things, "an invasion of privacy," the studio hired Loughran and other retired champions to help promote the film. Boxing insiders worried about the film's focus on the sport's crooked side, but Loughran told the A.P., "There is no more dishonesty in boxing than in any other profession. Boxing is no worse now than it was in the old days. There's an element of badness in everything. If that would kill boxing, it would have killed it long ago. I was approached dozens of times to throw a match, but my manager never would consider a thing like that, and that's all there was to it." Paradoxically, in 1961 Loughran testified in front of congress that professional boxing had indeed been corrupted by a criminal element.

Loughran, remembered by most as a devout Catholic and a classy fellow, wasn't above a little chicanery. Against Carnera, Loughran smeared his own head with the foulest hair grease on the market; the idea being that Carnera would be so sickened by the smell that he wouldn't lean on Loughran during clinches. Loughran, who would die a bachelor at age 79 in 1982, was still laughing about the hair grease decades after the Miami bout. "As soon as we'd go into a clinch, I'd put my head right up under Carnera's nose," said Loughran. "I still have pictures of Carnera, in sheer disgust, trying to shove me off." Other versions of the story have Loughran smearing himself with garlic.

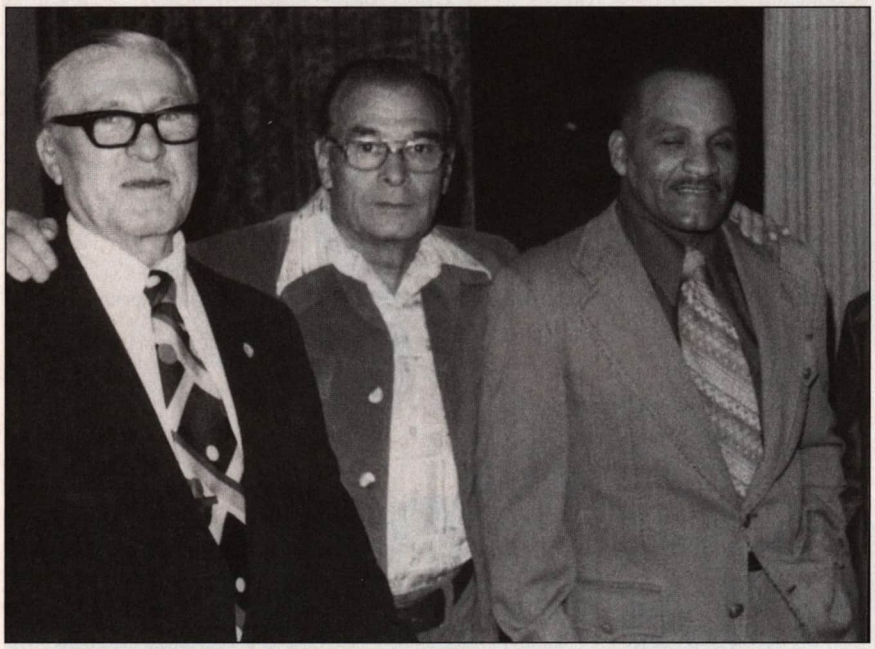


Loughran testifies before the Kefauver Committee, which was a congressional investigation of corruption in boxing, in 1961. Although Loughran said there were criminal elements involved in the sport, he claims that, although he was asked "dozens of times," he never took a dive during his lengthy career.

"He was definitely a storyteller," said Peltz, who as a 12-year-old got Loughran's autograph. "And he was very taken with himself. To hear him tell it, he beat everybody. Like a lot of fighters from those days, you can't be certain he's telling the truth."

If Loughran's 1972 interview with author Peter Heller is to be believed, the Carnera bout had a special proviso. "I had to knock him out to win, I had to agree to that," Loughran said. "I beat him, no question about it. I had agreed to this thing. I didn't care."

Consenting to such terms wasn't unheard of in the 1930s, but it was odd for the soft-hitting Loughran. Perhaps he had such disdain for Carnera that he thought a kayo was possible. What Loughran hadn't counted on was Carnera's determination to keep the title, even if he had to step on some toes to do it. ■



Loughran (left) is pictured with historian Hank Kaplan (center) and another light heavyweight champion from Philadelphia, Harold Johnson, at a Veteran Boxer's Association in the 1970s.

Don Stradley is a freelance writer from Massachusetts and a regular contributor to THE RING.

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Chad Dawson

"I Like Being Quiet; That's Who I Am"

He's been one of boxing's best for several years, but to many Chad Dawson remains a mystery. We really don't know much about him, other than he's the number-one light heavyweight in the world.

After being mired in rematches against Antonio Tarver and Glen Johnson the previous two years, 2010 could mark a breakthrough year for the quiet Connecticut-based pound-for-pound entrant. The 175-pound class is Dawson's for the taking, but he's going to need a little help.

Dawson, 29-0 (17) with 1 no-contest, is hoping new opportunities emerge, such as a challenge from Canadian Jean Pascal or a fight with IBF beltholder Tavoris Cloud. One fighter who's not willing to play along is Bernard Hopkins, who's opted to take on shop-worn Roy Jones instead of fighting "Bad Chad" for what would have been THE RING's light heavyweight world championship, which has been vacant since Joe Calzaghe retired.

Dawson wants the Hopkins fight but feels resigned to the growing possibility that it may never happen.

In the meantime, he's moved to a new area of Connecticut, into a new home, and is branching out into other businesses. He's pursuing a passion he's had since he was a child, raising and breeding dogs. He's become a pillar in his community, reaching out to a number of charitable organizations and making a big push in the boxing world by challenging other elite fighters to match his $5,000 donation to aid Haitian earthquake victims.

Above all else, Dawson seems to have found contentment. He's happy as a proud father of three with his wife Crystal, who's been a guiding force in his evolution as a world-class fighter.

Two months after Dawson beat Johnson for the second time, a victory that vaulted him into THE RING's pound-for-pound list, RING Managing Editor Joseph Santoliquito conduced a lengthy interview with Dawson.

Santoliquito reports: "Chad is a very impressive guy who, like many fighters, has had his share of trauma in his youth. But Chad seems to have adjusted well to his past. I had some concerns going into the interview, because Chad isn't exactly known as "Chatty Chad," but he was open, candid, and very honest about his life and his career. It turned out to be a revealing look at someone who not many boxing fans know a lot about."

The Ring: What was life like growing up in New Haven?

Chad Dawson: I was born in South Carolina and I lived in South Carolina until I was six. As a matter of fact, I moved to New Haven on my sixth birthday. Recently, I just moved again from New Haven, and I live in Hamden now. But I grew up in New Haven from when I was six to when I turned 25. I just moved out a couple of years ago. My family moved and left me with my older brothers in South Carolina until they settled in New Haven. My roots are in the south, but Connecticut is where I call home.

The Ring: Let's talk about some of the hardships your family faced.

CD: We have seven kids. I'm the third. I have two older brothers, two younger brothers, and two younger sisters. Let's just say it was a congested house *(laughs)*. We all slept in one bedroom when we first moved to New Haven. My father was the only one working. We depended on my father getting his one check and supporting us for a long time. But that was tough.

I lived in that bedroom for two years with the five of us, because my two older brothers stayed down South. It was like that for two or three years. It wasn't easy, but we had each other and it was cool. We were young; we didn't think about the fact that we were so poor. We all had each other. When you're young, you don't think about what you don't have and what other people have. You don't know what poor is. I didn't realize we were really poor until I was in the third or fourth grade. I started to see that we weren't as fortunate as some people. I realized it kind of quick. You see other kids with nice clothes and nice sneakers. You know how I could tell how poor we were? After Christmas vacation, every kid in the neighborhood and in school would have new stuff on, sneakers, foot-

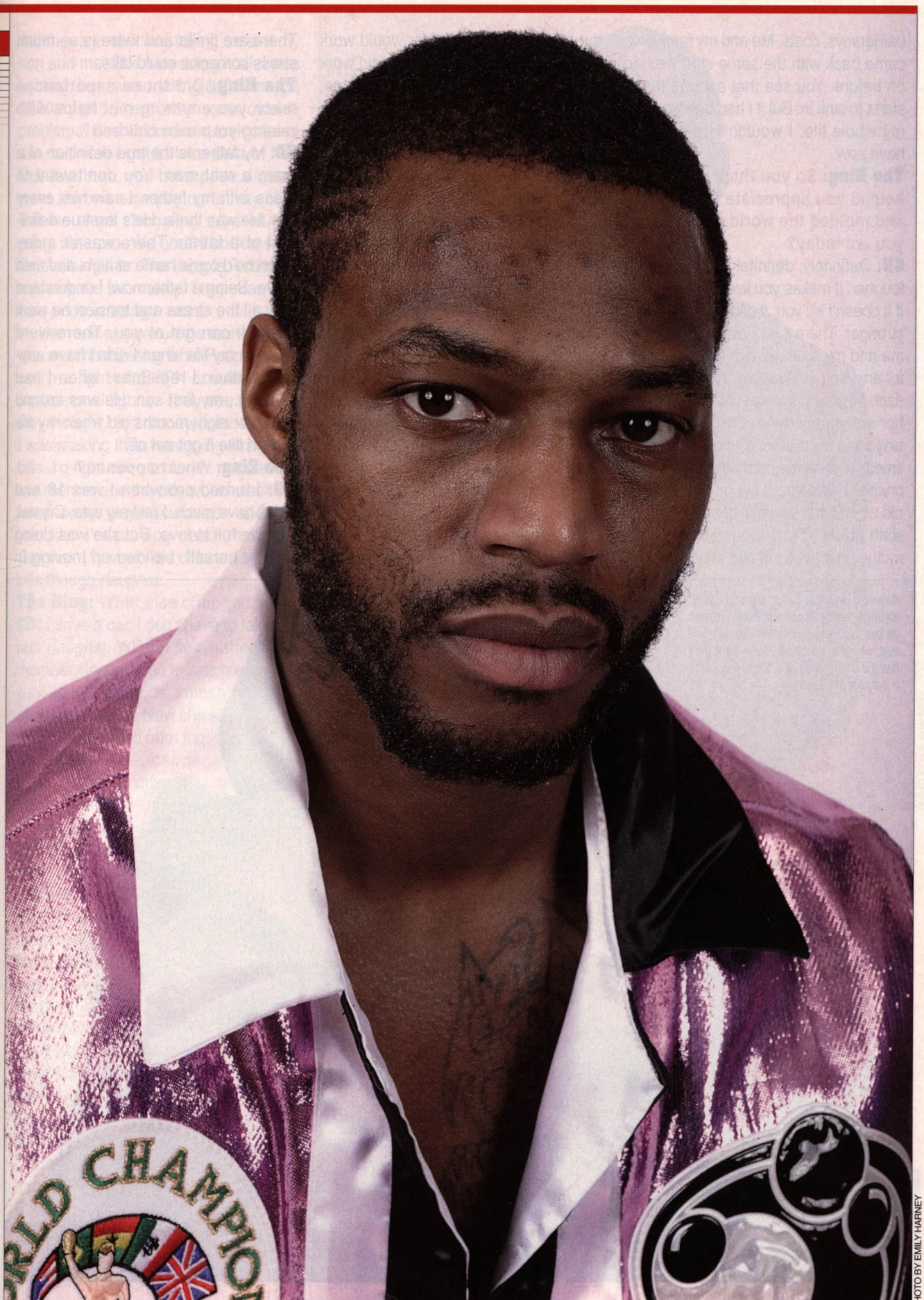

PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY

ball jerseys, coats. Me and my family, we came back with the same stuff we had on before. You see that enough that it starts to sink in. But if I had been spoiled my whole life, I wouldn't have what I have now.

The Ring: So you think your roots helped you appreciate things more and molded the world-class fighter you are today?

CD: Definitely, definitely. It makes you tougher. It makes you live by the phrase: If it doesn't kill you, it can only make you stronger. There was never a time when me and my brothers and sisters wanted for anything emotionally. We always had each other and my parents. But I remember seeing my father crying and I'd always see my mother crying during those times. That hit me hard seeing my father crying. I was about six or seven years old when I first saw him cry, in the fifth or sixth grade. It was around the time my mother just got a job and they worked at the same place. My father would work days there, and my mother would work nights. So when my father came home, my mother left.

One day, one of us got in trouble in school, me or one of my brothers, I don't really remember. We got home and were doing our homework, when the teacher called and spoke to my father about what we did that day. I could see he was stressed out over everything that was going on around him. This was another thing he had to deal with. It was a lot. I mean, he was so young, he was younger than me when he had all of us. My father had seven kids when he was 21, 22 years old. Think about that *(laughs),* seven kids! He was so young. He got off the phone with the teacher, and I think it just got to him with everything going on around him. He broke down. I was a kid; I didn't know. But now that I'm a man, I can see why a man would cry with all that going on. There are limits and there is so much stress someone could take.

The Ring: Did those experiences teach you anything that helps with raising your own children?

CD: My father is the true definition of a man, a real man. You don't want to mess with my father. I saw him every day. He was there. He's the true definition of a father. There wasn't a day when he'd come home at night and then leave. Being a father now, I understand now all the stress and tension he went through can get at you. There were times in my life when I didn't have anything either. I remember when I had Chad Jr., my first son. He was around seven or eight months old when my life looked like it got cut off.

The Ring: What happened?

CD: I turned pro when I was 18 and didn't have much. I met my wife, Crystal, and we fell in love. But she was doing fine by herself. I ended up moving in

Dawson and his wife, Crystal, went through some tough economic times before he began to earn decent money, but they stuck together. Now they have a new home and look forward to a prosperous future.

PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY

with her and she was taking care of my son and me. She was doing it all. I was fighting, but I was making $400, maybe $800 a fight. There were some outside problems. She worked and took care of me, but now I get to take care of her. But as a man, you have pride. I never want anyone else paying for my bills. But we were struggling my first few years as a pro. We had to borrow from Crystal's mother. The thing is, I couldn't ask anyone for money. I'm a man and take pride in being a man.

Her mother gave us the money, but it was an embarrassing time. People would see me fight on ESPN and that I'm a professional fighter. They see that and they thought I had money, but the money I was making then was going straight to bills. I'd fight once a month, once every two months and the bills would stack up. I was always playing catch-up—and I still feel like I'm playing catch-up today *(laughs)*. I have a little different stack of bills though *(laughs)*.

The Ring: What else changed?

CD: I drive a car. I don't have to take the bus *(laughs)*. When I first started, I remember Crystal used to watch my fights way up in the stands. I mean way, way up there *(laughs)*. Now she sits ringside. A lot has changed from those times.

The Ring: What happened in 2004 with the failed drug test after beating Aundalen Sloan? Looking back, it doesn't seem like you?

CD: It's not. I don't go out anywhere. But when that happened, I thought my career was over. I'm a talented fighter who had everything going on and then that happened. I was hanging out with drug dealers because they had money and they took care of me. It was a bad move on my part. I kept thinking, *You can't ignore talent; you can't ignore talent.* But then, talent wasn't paying the bills. It's like you have everything coming at you. It's like I had to go through something. I had a baby and I didn't want to go through the things I went through as a kid.

But I made a mistake, a big mistake. You hang around guys who smoke weed, and you get tempted. I was struggling with everything at the time. I should have had the willpower to turn it down. I took a little puff and that was it. Crystal found out and she was upset, really upset. My mother and father were upset.

It was the first time I was on national TV and everyone was excited about it. Then it comes out I tested positive for weed. I was embarrassed. I stayed inside my house for two weeks after that happened. I embarrassed my family, my wife, myself. I paid the price for it. I didn't let it bother me after a while. I had to come out of the house *(laughs)*. It was a valuable lesson. I look back at that time as the best thing that happened. It made me realize everything I have. Boxing, my wife, my family. I paid a price for that. You can say the pot boiled over and

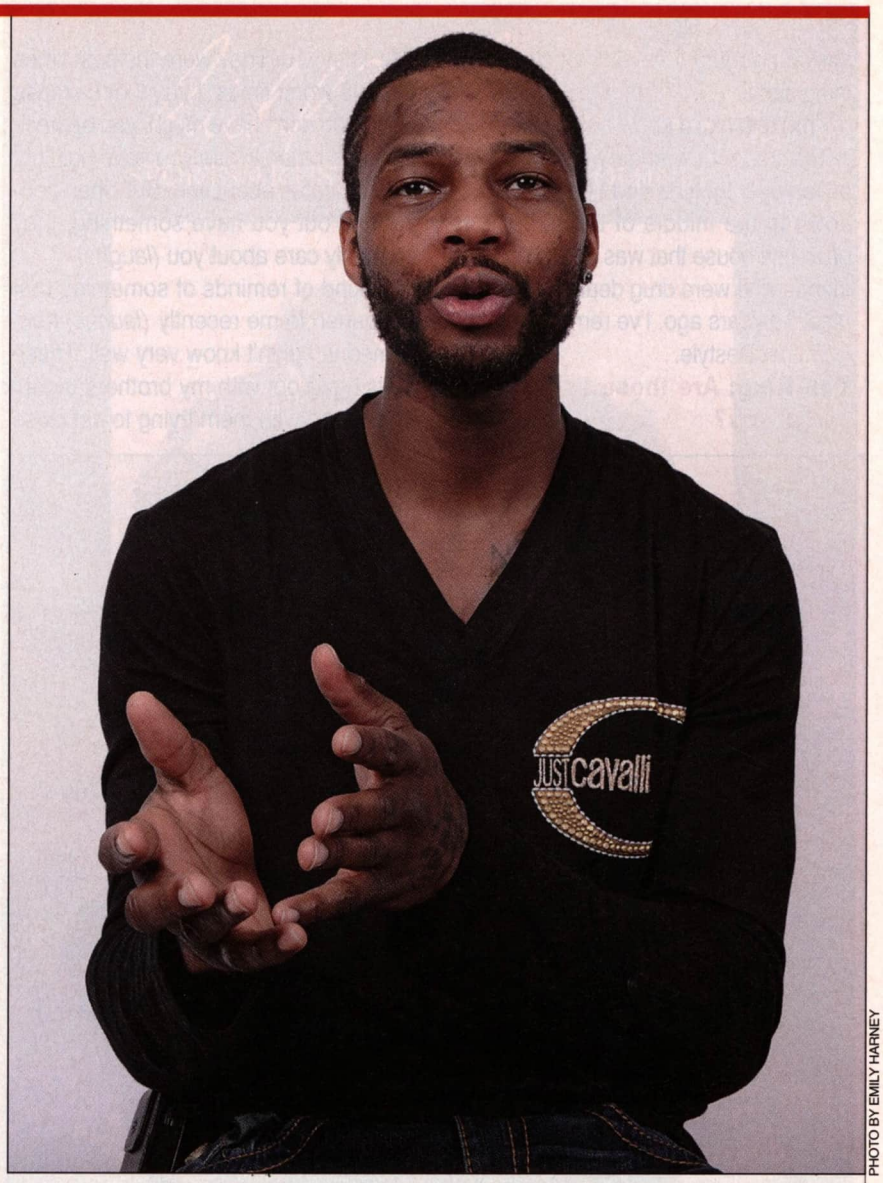

PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY

"It was the first time I was on national TV and everyone was excited about it. Then it comes out I tested positive for weed. I was embarrassed. I stayed inside my house for two weeks after that happened. I embarrassed my family, my wife, myself. I paid the price for it. It was a valuable lesson."

spilled *(laughs)*. I haven't touched anything since.

You'd think I'd know better. I've been in the car with friends when we were pulled over by feds and I had to lie face down in the middle of the street. I've been in a house that was raided and had friends who were drug dealers. This was nine, 10 years ago. I've removed myself from that lifestyle.

The Ring: Are those times still a part of you?

CD: They are. They were the best times and the worst times. I say that because when you don't have much, you appreciate each other. When you have nothing, nobody cares about you. But when people find out you have something, they suddenly care about you *(laughs)*.

It kind of reminds of something that happened to me recently *(laughs)* from someone I didn't know very well. These guys hang out with my brothers, right? They hang with them trying to get close to me. This one guy slowly crept into my circle of people I know. I may have only known him for maybe six, seven months. Do you know he had the courage—and the balls—to ask me for money. We're not talking $5 or $6. *He asked to borrow $10,000 from me!* I told him it's the worst thing you can ever do is ask me for money. He barely knew me and he's asking me for $10,000 *(laughs)*.

The Ring: Is that part of the trappings of success?

CD: I don't know what you call it *(laughs)*, but it happens, though not that often. There was this one time an older guy was following me around in his car trying to flag me down. It was someone I knew. His sister was an activist in the community, doing things for kids. His sister was friendly with my mother. So I knew him. When he pulled me over on the street, I thought he was going to ask me about doing something for his sister in the community or about doing some kind of charity work. I wish *(laughs)*. No *(laughs)*, he pulled me over to ask me for $10. I pulled off on him *(laughs)*. Crystal gets on me all of the time about it.

The Ring: Crystal sounds like an important part of Team Dawson?

CD: She's the backbone. She's everything. Team Dawson is basically me, her, my three kids, and my family. She's the backbone of this house. The things I don't feel comfortable doing, like yelling at the kids, she handles it *(laughs)*. She's a part of everything. If she sees something she doesn't think is right, she'll let someone know. She doesn't take any s___, that's how she is. A tough dude like myself, I need a tough woman like that. She's actually tougher than me *(laughs)*.

The Ring: How did you meet her?

CD: We were both out at a club. She caught my eye; I caught her eye. After two months, we were together. Crystal has a degree in social work and I told her she doesn't have to work anymore. It was the best day of my life when I met her. I can say if I never met her, I don't think I would be where I am today. My life could have gone in a totally different direction. I've had friends shot and killed. I knew from an early age that I didn't want to go that route. I remember one time when I

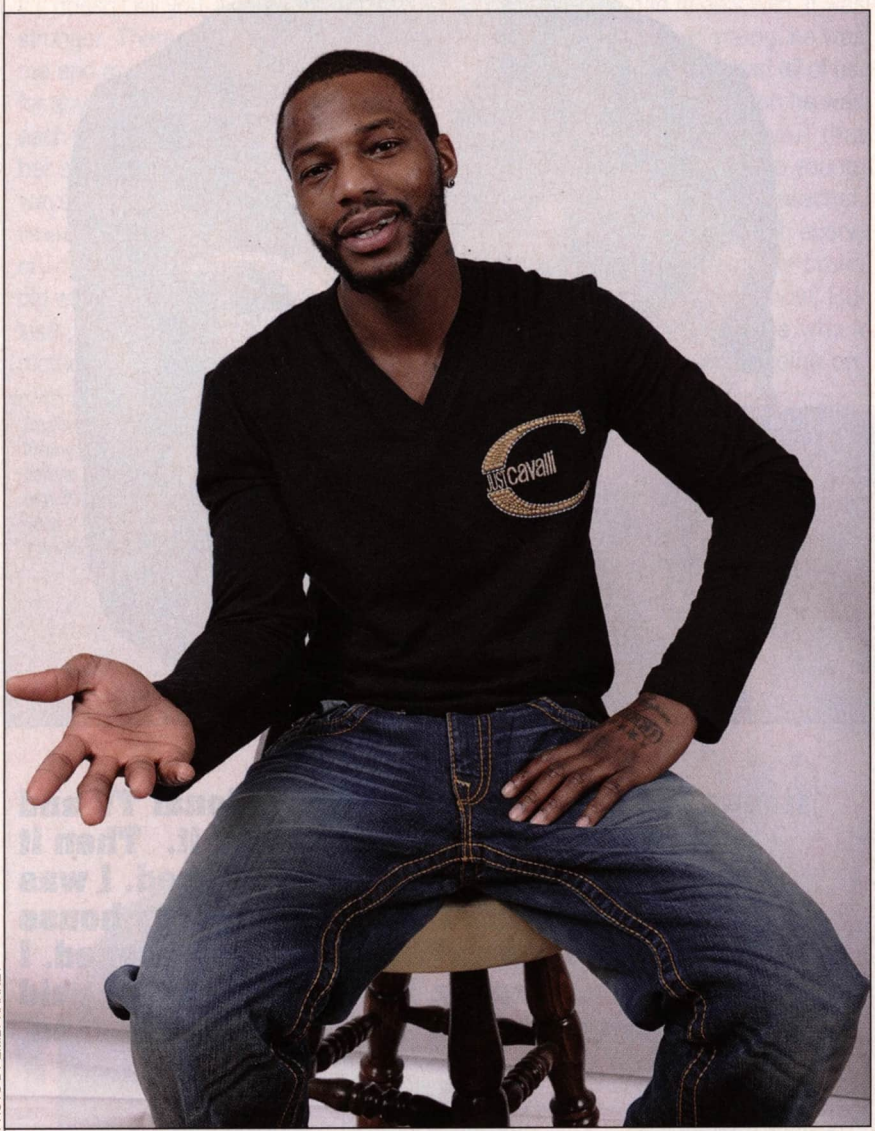

PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY

"People say I should talk more trash and that I'd get more money. That's not me ... I don't want to be like Antonio Tarver or Floyd Mayweather. That's not my nature."

was little coming back from school and there was an ambulance outside my grandmother's house. I found my uncle dead—and I was four. I still have graphic images of that. I can't walk up to a casket. Crystal kept me out of one.

The Ring: In what ways have you changed?

CD: I used to love the nightlife, but I'm getting older and have been married since I was 25. I have three kids and I'm getting a whole grip on life. I'm coming into my own and I know what's right and wrong. I feel good when I'm talking to my kids. It makes me feel like a man. She's the reason.

The Ring: How are you dealing with your success?

CD: I think I'm dealing with it well. But I am dealing with the same things I dealt with before people saw me fight on TV. I don't think I've changed. I still help my family and do the things I've always been doing. I just drive a nicer car than I used to drive. I'm not that different than I was before. But the way I am, you want to do as much as you can for people. But the one time you can't, you've become too big-time for people. They think you've changed.

The Ring: Can you give an example?

CD: I had something happen this past Christmas. I've been helping my family out, all my brothers and sisters. I was helping them out so much that me and my wife had a long talk about it. I'm lending money out here, like a $1,000 here and $2,000 there. This past Christmas, I wrote my whole family each a $5,000 check. It was $40,000. That was my Christmas gift to them. I did that, and then I noticed something. No one bought anything for me or my kids for Christmas. I didn't think about it, until Crystal brought it up. I thought they'd at least get my kids something. I figure that I do so much for friends and family, it's like everyone around me has changed. It's like they expect. But no one even came by my house for Christmas. I'll still do what I can for my family. I always will, but some things you can't forget.

The Ring: I imagine there has also been a positive side to your success.

CD: I just made enough money to buy a new house. So a lot of good things come

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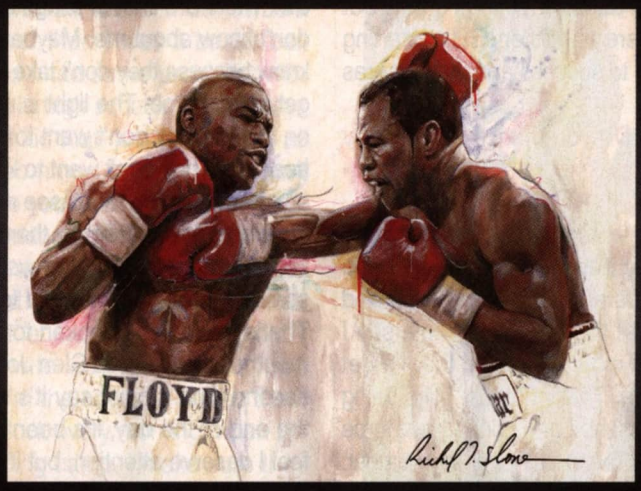

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with success. Kids love me; they recognize me. My biggest fans are the kids in the area, believe it or not. I hang out in the YMCA a lot. I talk to local high school kids. It's funny, because I didn't think they'd care about anything I'd say. But they sat there and listened. I'm starting to get used to success and the cameras and stuff.

The Ring: Do you think your low-key personality has hurt your popularity?

CD: That's what people tend to think. I know locally, people talk about me in the barbershops and they come back and tell me what they heard. People say I should talk more trash and that I'd get more money. That's not me. I like being quiet, that's who I am. I don't want to be like Antonio Tarver or Floyd Mayweather. That's not my nature. I'm not the type of person who will get up in your face and tell you what I will do to you. I'm well-mannered; I'll speak when I have to speak. I don't have to show anyone anything. Again, it's not me.

The Ring: Do you think the media has been fair to you?

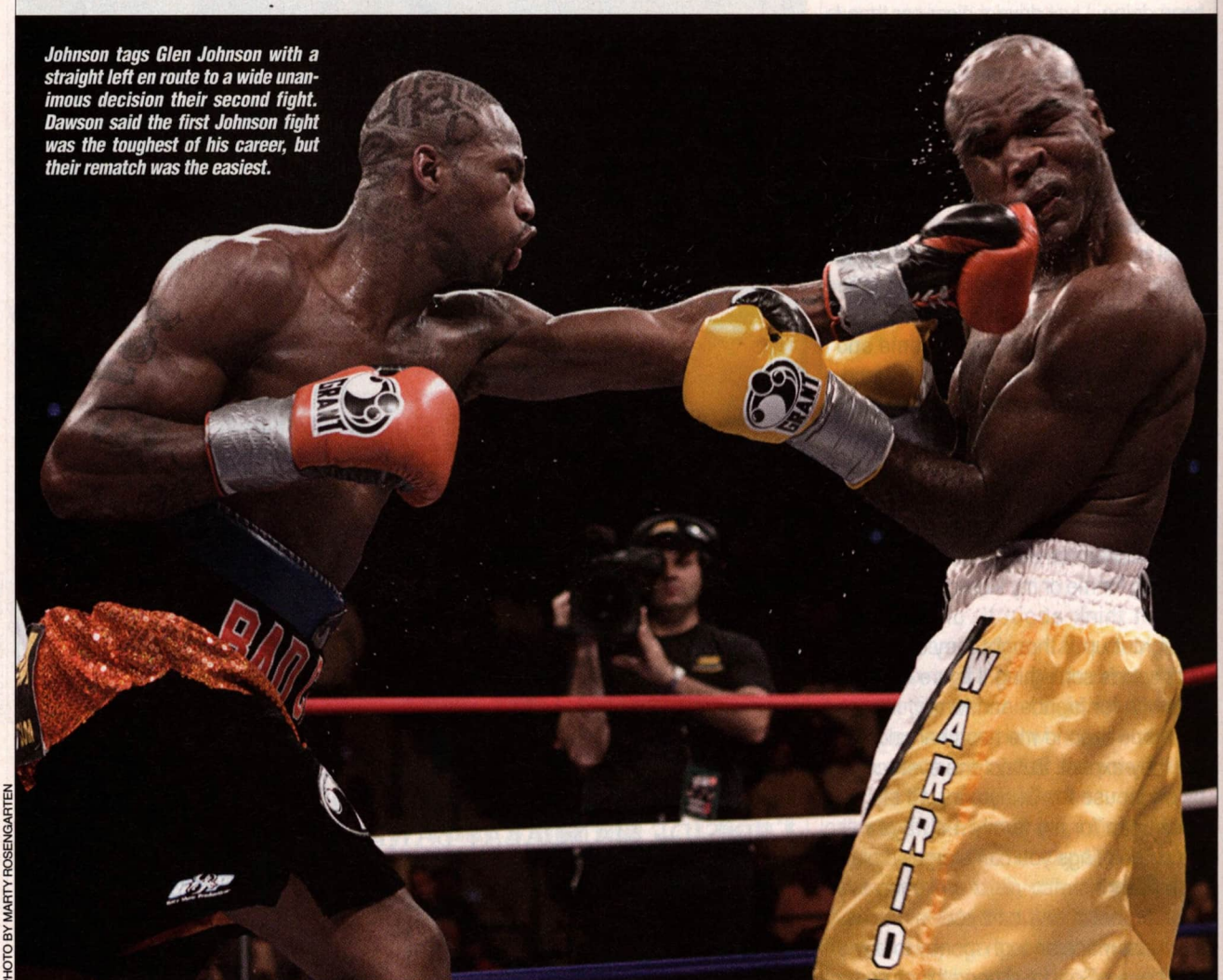
CD: There are a lot of things that people don't know about me. Maybe they don't know because they don't take the time to get to know me. The light is not shining on me, so they don't want to see me or hear me. They don't want to know who I am, because they don't see me all over the place. After my fights, there might be something in the local newspapers or something up on a website for a week. That's it. I haven't spoken to anyone in months, since I beat Glen Johnson the second time. I can't say it's not fair. At the end of the day, it's been working. I feel I deserve attention, but if it were up to me, I'd keep to myself and keep winning. I do like the attention and the media tours—but when they're done, they're done. I'm happy with my life and the way things are going right now.

The Ring: Let's change gears and talk about what your toughest fight was and why?

CD: The first Glen Johnson fight was the toughest fight I've ever been in during my career. I had to deal with adversity for the first time. I had to rally back from some big punches to win. He really pushed me. He pushed me so much that the second Glen Johnson fight was the easiest of my career *(laughs)*.

The Ring: Why was that?

CD: A lot of people didn't think I won that first fight. I was really messed up. I had never felt the way I did after that fight, mentally and physically. I knew what I was getting into going into that fight. I wanted to see how tough I was in the Johnson fight. I wanted to see if I had the big balls *(laughs)*. I actually owe Glen Johnson a lot. I said it in interviews, but



Johnson tags Glen Johnson with a straight left en route to a wide unanimous decision their second fight. Dawson said the first Johnson fight was the toughest of his career, but their rematch was the easiest.

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

he doesn't give me credit for anything I've done. I wasn't going to go through the same thing the second time with him. I'm looking for bigger fights now, and if I can get out of a fight unscratched and unscathed, I'll do it. I don't want to go through that feeling again where I'm really hurting. That was the worst feeling in the world after the Johnson fight. Then adding on to it was reading about how everyone thought I lost that fight.

The Ring: Was the first Johnson your greatest victory?

CD: No. When I fought Eric Harding the first time, everyone was saying I wasn't ready for him. They said Gary Shaw was pushing me too fast. I'll never forget what Harding said: "It's a boy against a man." Only a few people knew that I was going to win that fight. That's my father, my mother, and my wife. No one thought I would beat Harding outside of them. I'd also put the Tomasz Adamek fight right up there. That was a great victory, and it's looking better and better each time he wins. I didn't put the second Johnson up there because I wanted to show everyone my hand speed and my legs. The Harding and Adamek fights are the fights that made me and put me where I am today. In my eyes, those are the two fights that stand out the most.

The Ring: Was it Gary Shaw that got you the Harding and Adamek fights?

CD: Yeah, Gary has treated me real well. The funny thing is *(laughs)*, when word got out that I signed with Gary, people used to come up to me and say bad things about Gary, reporters, other promoters and fighters, a lot of them. They all had something to say about Gary. But he's been in it for my best interests. He's never been dishonest to me. Gary took me out of a real bad position, and I'll be as loyal to him as he's loyal to me. I have to be appreciative. Gary shows his appreciation to me by showing faith in me and getting me great fights. I hope we continue our relationship like this, because we've never been in an argument or got into a confrontation with one another since I've been with him. It's always been good. Boxing is not always like that—I definitely know about that *(laughs)*.

The Ring: Yet you were headed to play basketball in college. What happened?

CD: Skill wise, I was pretty good. I could have been a decent player. *I loved basketball, loved it.* But I was a better boxer than I was a basketball player, and I had some problems with my grades in high school. I was always the type of kid that just felt as long as you had common sense, there isn't much more you need. I never graduated. I'm working on my GED right now. My last year in high school was 10th grade. A lot of people don't know that. But I won't let my sons do what I did. I know my wife won't let that happen *(laughs)*. I'm the one who wakes them up at 7 o'clock every morning, when I'm not in training camp. I make sure they do their homework and I check everything. My kids are good; they're not problem children.

I wasn't either. I always had a pair of boxing gloves, and before I started playing basketball, I boxed. I started playing basketball in the fifth grade. That took the lead. I loved playing basketball and football, off and on, trying something different. As a kid, I saw myself in the NBA or the NFL. I dreamed about it. What kid doesn't?

But I didn't have the grades or the work ethic to go to school and do the work. I was more of a knucklehead. I was a quiet knucklehead *(laughs)*. I would do everything behind closed doors. I would pretend to get up and go to school and then detour somewhere else. But I also think my situation had something to do with that. I used to have holes in my sneakers and I used hate it when it snowed. My feet froze walking to school *(laughs)*. I could laugh about it now, but it hurt then. I wouldn't want to go to school to get clowned. I definitely want all my kids to go to school and get their education. I'm hopefully a couple of months from the GED.

The Ring: Are you close?

CD: I have to hurry and get this out of the way. The academics are definitely making up for lost time. I hate to call my wife and ask her what things mean every five minutes *(laughs)*. It will be worth it when I get the GED. I just don't think it

will erase everything I went through in school with some of the teachers.

The Ring: Sounds like you didn't have an easy time in high school.

CD: God put me here for a reason. I feel blessed to do what I do. It goes back to high school. I had teachers tell me I was dumb and that I'd be the next Mike Tyson. I see those same teachers today and they can't even speak to me. They can't even look me in the eye, because they know what they said to me. But I remember *(laughs)*. One teacher used to call me a "dumb jock." That also contributed to me not going to school. My last day of school, I got into a big, big, big dispute and I never went back. I got into it with the principal of the school *(laughs)*. We locked horns. They had to escort me off the property.

The Ring: Were you in a lot of fights growing up as a kid?

CD: Early on, when I was younger, yes. By the time I got to junior high school, I'd calmed down. Every once in a while, my little brother got into fights and I had to finish the fights. But overall, I don't even remember the last time I got into an altercation in the streets. I think boxing helped curb that, knowing what I could do to a person and what that person could do to me after I really hurt them. I worked too hard for what I have. I'm not about to blow it for doing something stupid like getting into it in the streets. Besides, anyone who knows me knows that's not me anyway.

The Ring: When did boxing come into your life?

CD: It was my father, Rick; he's the one who got me fighting. I was about six or seven and my father used to work out in Waterbury. My father was a pro. He didn't have a good record and he didn't have the skills I have, but the skills I have

Dawson poses with his three children (from left to right): Chad Jr., Royal (on Chad's lap), and Chancellor. Chad Jr. walks around the house wearing a pair of boxing trunks and goes to bed every night with them on.

PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY

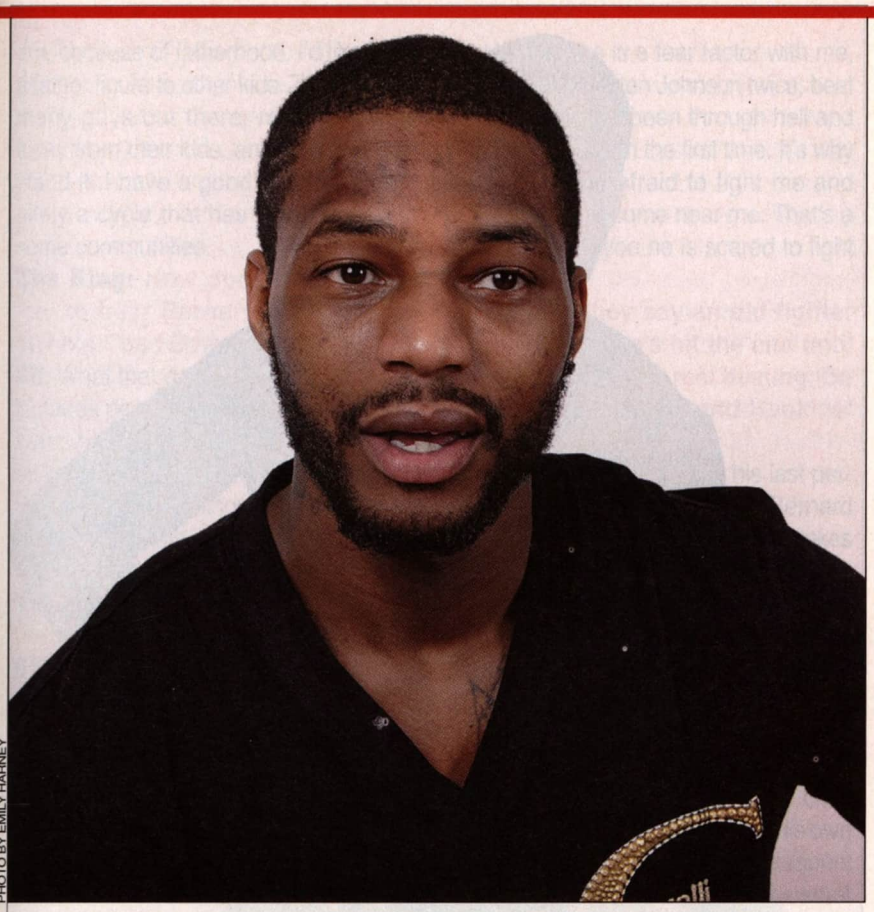


PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY

"Honestly, judging from his last performance, I think I can punish Bernard Hopkins. I think I have everything it takes to end his career. On the other hand, Bernard Hopkins knows that too *(laughs)*. That's why he won't fight me."

were instilled in me by him. He put that seed in me. My father tells stories about how he put gloves on me when I was three and how I'd scream if someone took the gloves off.

I believe it because Chad Jr. is the same way. He sleeps in boxing trunks every night. The first thing he does every day after school is he puts on his boxing trunks. He walks around the house with his boxing trunks on all day. Crystal knows it's what I do. She already knows the talent is already there. I don't want Chad fighting amateurs until he's around 12. Boxing was great for me when I was young, but it was also a distraction. I was 10 years old when I went to my first big tournament. Me and my brother, Rick, went to Kansas City. It was the Silver Gloves and I lost my first fight. I thought my father would be upset, but he said that at least I made it to the nationals.

The Ring: Did your father ever try to train you?

CD: Never, not once. My father never trained me. He'd drop me off at the gym every day and sometimes he'd stay and watch. He did his thing and watched me. He never said anything to the other trainers who were working with me. He watched; that was it. I'm sure he would have loved to have been my trainer *(laughs)*, but he really understands that it's not healthy for a father to train his son. A lot of fathers don't understand that. My father did. I would love to train my son, but I won't. I know it would

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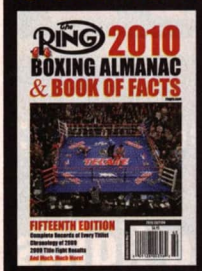

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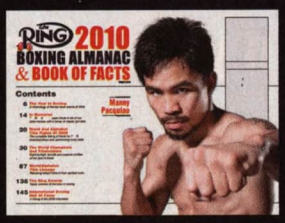

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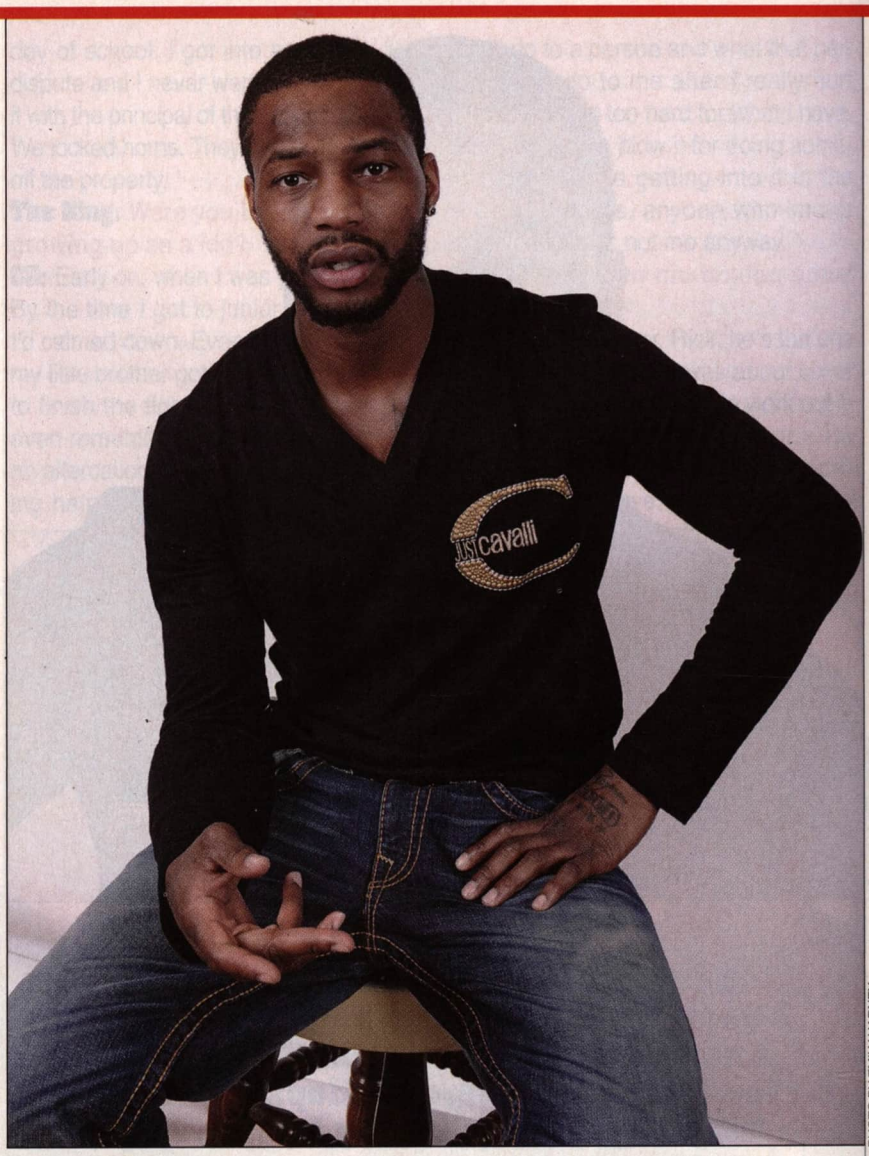

PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY

"I'm the best light heavyweight in the world and the IBF, WBC, WBA, none of them have me rated high. Maybe I'm number nine or number eight. That's what has me baffled every time I look. I don't know why I always check out the rankings every month, because I'm not anywhere. That's why it's a joke."

mess up my personal life with my son if I were his trainer. It's a different environment at home than the gym. I can tell my sons what to do at home, and then they have to hear me again at the gym *(laughs)*? No way. My father got that; he never tried to step.

The Ring: What's fatherhood been like for you?

CD: I have three sons: Chad Jr., who's six; Chancellor, who's three, and my youngest, Royal, who's 11 months. Being a father has changed me a lot. Being a father teaches you how to love. I definitely love them more than myself and would do anything for them. I learned that from my father. I owe a lot to being who I am, and being able to be who I

am, because of fatherhood. I'd like to be a father figure to other kids. There are so many guys out there, men who walk away from their kids, and I don't understand it. I have a good father. It's definitely a cycle that has to be broken in some communities.

The Ring: How does it make you feel to hear Bernard Hopkins say "Who's Chad Dawson?"

CD: What that does for me, honestly, is it makes people look me up to see who I am, if they don't know me *(laughs)*. I think it gives me more of an edge over Bernard. I want to know the reason why Bernard Hopkins is ducking Chad Dawson *(laughs)*.

The Ring: Do you think Hopkins is afraid of you?

CD: I won't say afraid, because I don't think any fighter should be afraid of another fighter. But I definitely think he's intimidated by my speed, by my youth. It's definitely on his mind. For a guy who says he's the kingpin of the light heavyweight division, you have to fight the best. He used to be number-one, and if he still considers himself the best, shouldn't he fight the best? It's why boxing is messed up today. The best doesn't fight the best. It's why MMA is huge. Bernard Hopkins doesn't want anything to do with me.

But I know this: Nobody wants to see Bernard Hopkins fight Roy Jones again. They were supposed to fight five, 10 years ago. I know he knows that me and him is the biggest fight at light heavyweight. HBO knows it. It's a fight people want to see. Maybe not a $10-million fight, or a $5-million fight, but it's a fight people want. It's what bothers me about this sport. Let's make boxing *boxing* again. Let's bring it back to Hagler-Hearns, Leonard-Duran, Leonard-Hearns. That's when boxing was boxing, when the best fought the best. It's not that way anymore; it's about how much money will I make for fighting this guy. I know if I lost a fight, I'd be back in the shadows. Bernard fought Kelly Pavlik, and he's around the same age as me. But I guess that was a little different. Pavlik is a little smaller than I am, and he's not as fast as me. Bernard fights guys he knows he can beat.

I think there is a fear factor with me, because I've beaten Johnson twice, beat Tarver twice. I've been through hell and back with Johnson the first time. It's why Hopkins is too afraid to fight me and doesn't want to come near me. That's a fear factor. Maybe he is scared to fight me *(laughs)*.

The Ring: They say an old fighter doesn't know he's hit the end until he's experienced a real beating. Do you think you could end Hopkins' career?

CD: Honestly, judging from his last performance, I think I can punish Bernard Hopkins. I think I have everything it takes to end his career. On the other hand, Bernard Hopkins knows that too *(laughs)*. That's why he won't fight me. I respect Hopkins. You're talking about one of the greatest fighters of all-time. I would respect him more if he came out and admitted he has to retire. Instead, he says: "Who's Chad Dawson? He can't sell any tickets." He can't sell out his own hometown *(laughs)*. I like and respect Bernard Hopkins. But there are a lot of great legends who didn't duck anyone. We're both in a position to make good money. I'm not enough reward and too much risk for him. I'm better than Roy Jones. I would have loved to fight Roy Jones. Give me that opportunity. Hopkins and Jones are two great legends, but they're old legends *(laughs)*.

The Ring: Is it hard seeing Jones today and what's happened to him?

CD: It is. I was such a big Roy fan growing up, and to see the way his career is going now. I would like to see him retire. It's hard to watch Roy Jones fight today. He was faster than a locomotive, faster than a speeding light, and then to lose to [Danny] Green, I don't want to see him fight again. It was Roy Jones who gave me one of my greatest compliments though. Roy told me a couple of years ago that I'm the best fighter in the light heavyweight division. That's good enough for me.

The Ring: Who's higher on the annoying scale, Antonio Tarver or Hopkins?

CD: Antonio Tarver is far, far more annoying *(laughs)*. Tarver is not the type of person he portrays himself to be. The

way he acts, that's not him. He's not sure who he wants to be. That's the sense I get. He's confused. He doesn't know whether he wants to be an actor, a boxer, or a promoter *(laughs)*. I can't stand him *(laughs)*; he's a fake. At least we know who Bernard is. He didn't change. He never has. He's loud and obnoxious *(laughs) now*, but he's always been loud and obnoxious *(laughs)*. After Roy beat Tarver the first fight, Tarver spoke so much crap. He just kept talking and talking. You couldn't shut this dude up *(laughs)*. I beat him real bad the first time we met, and then I had to defend against Tarver again. Tarver is shot. Does it show I don't like him *(laughs)*?

The Ring: Who's still out there, besides Hopkins, that you would like to fight?

CD: I'd like to face Joe Calzaghe. I'm hearing rumors *(laughs)*. If he comes out of retirement, you'll read everywhere "The King Is Back," and I feel like I'm the king. I'm Jean Pascal's mandatory and I hope that would be my next fight, if I don't get Bernard or anyone else.

The Ring: How frustrating has the politics of boxing been for you?

CD: It's been frustrating the last two years. The more they ignore me, the more silent I am. No one saw me coming up the ratings and now I'm number one in THE RING. I don't worry about the alphabets. None of the alphabets rate me *(laughs)*. I'm the best light heavyweight in the world and the IBF, WBC, WBA, none of them have me rated high *(laughs)*. Maybe I'm number nine or number eight. That's what has me baffled every time I look. I don't know why I always check out the rankings every month, because I'm not anywhere *(laughs)*. That's why it's a joke. I think it's about winning titles and then giving them up. Maybe it has something to do with that. Maybe the alphabets don't like me doing it. It's not normal, because you see guys like Tavoris Cloud rated in the top three, top five. I'm nowhere to be found. It says a lot more about the organizations than it does about me. It's not about titles to me. It's about being the best.

The Ring: Let's play a name game. I'll say a name and you give a brief response.

CD: Okay.

The Ring: Glen Johnson?

CD: Tough crybaby *(laughs)*.

The Ring: Gary Shaw?

CD: A funny, class act, who's his own man. Gary Shaw is Gary Shaw, there's no other like Gary Shaw *(laughs)*.

The Ring: Oscar De La Hoya?

CD: An entrepreneur and a hell of a businessman.

The Ring: Don King?

CD: The face of boxing and the builder of boxing. If it wasn't for him, we wouldn't have all this money involved in the sport today. I really believe that.

The Ring: Floyd Mayweather?

CD: In my eyes, the best fighter in the world, pound-for-pound, and probably one of the greatest fighters in my book, a top five all-time as far as talent and skills.

The Ring: Freddie Roach?

CD: A gifted and talented trainer. What he did, what he's still doing, with Pacquiao is remarkable. If I didn't have one of the best trainers in the world already with Eddie [Mustafa Muhammad], I'd like to work one day with Freddie Roach.

The Ring: Manny Pacquiao?

CD: He is not normal *(laughs)*. To do the things he does, and the punishment he puts out, that's not normal. He is the face

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Dawson poses with his trainer, former WBA light heavyweight titleholder Eddie Mustafa Muhammad (far left) and other members of Team Dawson. After a stint with Floyd Mayweather Sr., Dawson has decided that Eddie Mustafa is a better fit.

of boxing right now. Even women who don't watch boxing know who Manny Pacquiao is.

The Ring: Larry Merchant?

CD: A serious man who makes me more nervous than who I have to fight *(laughs)*. You get around him, and you don't want to say the wrong thing *(laughs)*.

The Ring: Mike Tyson?

CD: He's misunderstood and he's been misguided. That's what I get from him. I got a chance to talk to him. He made a lot of bad mistakes, but boxing today wouldn't be boxing without Mike Tyson. He was a little heavyweight and crushed guys. It really is a shame. He was a guy who had so much and lost everything. He's a reason why I don't want my kids to be fighters.

The Ring: When did you start raising dogs?

CD: It's something I always wanted to do. I have 11 dogs. What's frustrating sometimes is every time I'm out and someone sees me, I gotta hear someone say they hope that I'm not like Michael Vick. They think I fight dogs. They see I'm a young successful black athlete with dogs and it's the first thing that comes to mind, I guess *(laughs)*. I have an indoor kennel and I breed pit bulls. I'm just getting into it. I'm putting the website up. I have three pit puppies that I've raised myself. I'm a dog guy *(laughs)*. I wanted dogs my whole life, but when I was young we couldn't take care of dogs. I bought my first dog, Racks, from a breeder in California. It's a pit bull. I'm trying to think up a kennel name. I'm working with a young amateur fighter in California who breeds dogs and we're thinking of naming it Southpaw Kennels.

The Ring: How did you hook up with Eddie Mustafa Muhammad?

CD: I trained with Floyd Mayweather Sr. for the Adamek fight. Eddie was part of the team. Me and Floyd didn't get along at all. Everyone knew that. It was all about him, not the fighters. After the Jesus Ruiz fight, I had to call it quits with Floyd. He's telling me before the Adamek fight that I was going to get knocked out—and he is supposed to be my trainer! Floyd left for a week during Adamek camp to work with another fighter and Eddie took over. He was much smarter and easier to work with. Eddie knows how to talk to fighters. I ended up making the decision to go with Eddie, but I didn't know how to tell Floyd. Eddie dealt with Floyd and told him. Then I heard Floyd doing a lot of talking about how I was going to get knocked out by Tarver. Floyd is a good trainer, but his style wasn't for me. All that fancy pad work, that's not for me.

The Ring: Do you think steroids and PEDs are a big issue in boxing?

CD: It's becoming a big issue now. You saw what was happening with the Pacquiao-Mayweather fight and how everything went with that. People are talking. I know fighters are talking. I've never taken any steroids or PEDs to increase my strength. But the talk and the rumors are showing up now. It's becoming a problem.

The Ring: Do you think you ever faced anyone on steroids or PEDs?

CD: I had some questions about some of the fighters that I fought, just things that I heard. When you're in camp, you hear things about some guys as you're getting ready for fights.

The Ring: I noticed you and Crystal reached out to help the earthquake victims in Haiti by donating $5,000 and challenged others in boxing to do the same. What compelled you to do that?

CD: Everyone knows what happened in Haiti. I watched what happened there. Me and my wife were glued to the TV every night. I figured if I could donate $5,000 to Haitian relief, maybe some other guys in boxing could match it. I'm talking about Shane Mosley, Hopkins, De La Hoya, Floyd Mayweather, and Manny Pacquiao. They could afford that. Let's see who has a good heart and can be considered a good person. Boxing doesn't have that connection with fans and charity like you see with other sports. I just want people to know I'm doing good and boxing has helped me. It's also about helping someone else. Me and my wife are even going to try and adopt a couple of kids. We're going to do what we can—if we're in a position to do it. I have boxing to thank for that. ■

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[Summary]

Heavyweights

Tomasz Adamek W 12 Jason Estrada
Timur Ibragimov KO 3 Awadh Tamim
Coleman Barrett W 10 Colin Kenna
Lee Swaby W 10 David Ingleby
Derek Chisora KO 2 Carl Baker
Fres Oquendo KO 9 Demetrice King
Robert Helenius KO 8 Lamon Brewster
Derric Rossy KO 2 Joseph Harris
Jamie Campbell KO 1 Dan Mullarkey

Cruiserweights

Tomasz Hutkowski KO 2 Jozsef Nagy
Lubos Suda KO 11 Geoffrey Battelo
Iago Kiladze KO 2 Matthias Sandow

Light Heavyweights

Beibut Shumenov W 12 Gabriel Campillo
(Wins WBA Title)
Glen Johnson KO 6 Yusaf Mack
Nathan Cleverly KO 5 Antonio Brancalion
Karo Murat KO 2 Sean Corbin
Dawid Kostecki KO 7 Dario Cichello
Braimah Kamoko KO 7 Emmanoel Martins Da Silva
Epifanio Mendoza KO 3 Clemente Perez
Danny McIntosh KO 2 Tony Oakey

Super Middleweights

Jesse Brinkley W 12 Curtis Stevens
Server Emurlaev W 12 Bernard Donfack
Lolenga Mock W 12 Giovanni De Carolis
Anthony Fitzgerald W 10 Ciaran Healy
Davey Savage Jr.W 10 Gavin Reid
David Lemieux W 10 Jason Naughler
Hamza Wandera KO 8 Charles Kakande
Brian Magee KO 7 Mads Larsen
Pablo Farias KO 5 Eduardo Cardoso
Josimar Olivares KO 1 Jesus Galicia

Middleweights

Sebastian Sylvester KO 10 Billy Lyell
(Retains IBF Title)
Benjamin Simon W 12 Rashid Matumla
Tetsuya Suzuki W 10 Norifumi Suzuki
Peter Quillin W 10 Fernando Zuniga
Erislandy Lara KO 10 Grady Brewer
Peter Manfredo Jr. W 10 Matt Vanda
Anton Novikov W 10 Karama Nyilawila
Grzegorz Proksa KO 5 Tyan Booth
Matteo Signani KO 8 Gaetano Nespro
Osumanu Adama KO 7 Josival Teixeira
Dmitry Pirog KO 5 Eric Mitchell
Rafael Sosa Pintos KO 3 Giovanni Diniz
Matt Korobov KO 1 Lamar Harris

Junior Middleweights

Shawn Porter W 10 Russell Jordan
Timur Nergadze W 10 Khanlar Azizov
Amilcar Melian W 10 Marcos Reyes
Salomon Rodriguez KO 2 Miguel Galindo
Yudel Jhonson KO 1 Dorian Beaupierre
Mauro Lucero KO 1 Armando Campas

Welterweights

Vitaliy Demyanenko W 12 Jorge Miranda
Luis Carlos Abregu W 10 Richard Gutierrez
Rodolfo Martinez KO 8 Juan Lucero
Ruslan Provodnikov KO 8 Javier Jauregui
James Armah KO 6 Ruben Silva Diaz
Sherali Mamadaliev KO 6 Frederic Serre
Freddy Hernandez KO 5 DeMarcus Corley
Lucas Matthysse KO 4 Vivian Harris
Hector Saldivia KO 4 Ricardo Cano
Ed Paredes KO 2 Joey Hernandez
Joshua Okine KO 1 Ricky Torrez

Junior Welterweights

Urbano Antillon KO 3 Antonio Arceo
Lenny Daws D 12 Jason Cook
Steve Williams W 10 Michael Grant
Jesus Gurrola W 10 Jose Ramos
Vladimir Kravets Tech. Win 9 Kanat Kartenbayev
Jose Perea KO 9 Julio Camano
Chris Namus KO 7 Adriana Salles
Herman Ngoudjo KO 6 Silverio Ortiz
Tosho Aoki KO 5 Didi Panzer
Francisco Contreras KO 1 Juan Castaneda Jr.

Lightweights

Edwin Valero KO 9 Antonio DeMarco
(Retains WBC Title)
Kevin Mitchell KO 2 Ignacio Mendoza
Ji-Hoon Kim KO 5 Tyrone Harris
Edner Cherry KO 1 Hevinson Herrera
Gary Buckland W 12 Sam Rukundo
Lee McAllister W 12 Sam Amoako
Beka Sadjaia W 10 Jaba Shalutashvili
Fidel Monterrosa Munoz KO 7 Jesus Perez
Hee-Jae Cho KO 6 Hyung-Joo Yum
Andy Murray KO 5 Oisin Fagan

PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Lightweight Ji-Hoon Kim rips into Tyrone Harris with a left to the body

Brandon Rios KO 3 Jorge Teron
Karim El Ouazghari KO 2 Jesus Simon
Santos Benavides KO 1 Carlos Mairena

Junior Lightweights

Cesar Soto KO 1 Eden Marquez
Jorge Solis KO 7 Likar Ramos
Emmanuel Tagoe W 12 Thompson Mokwana
Guillaume Frenois W 12 Gildas Gracia
Krzysztof Cieslak W 10 Philippe Frenois
Hiroto Takeshita W 10 Norihide Yoshino
Danny Montoya W 10 Uriel Garcia
Takashi Miura W 10 Seiichi Okada
Eloy Perez W 10 David Rodela
Leva Kirakosyan KO 3 Scott Lawton
Archie Ray Marquez W 8 Derrick Campos

Featherweights

Elio Rojas W 12 Guty Espadas Jr.
(Retains WBC Title)
Bernabe Concepcion W 10 Mario Santiago
Daniel Ponce De Leon KO 3 Orlando Cruz
Oleg Yefimovych W 12 Andrey Isaev
Cyril Thomas W 12 Argel Salinas
Ryol Li Lee W 10 Kazunori Takayama
Eduardo Escobedo W 10 Joksan Hernandez
Cristian Palma W 10 Miguel Caceres
Tomas Villa W Disq. 10 Juan Ruiz
Patrick Hyland KO 7 Mickey Coveney
Chattorn Kiattorborubol KO 7 Kazuyoshi Niki
Edel Ruiz KO 4 Bones Adams
Sergio Thompson KO 4 Cristian Arrazola
Lizardo Moreno KO 4 Ramon Mendez
Matt Remillard KO 3 Rafael Lora
Juan Rodriguez KO 2 Fernando Aquino
Guillermo Rigondeaux KO 1 Adolfo Landeros

Junior Featherweights

Ramon Maas W 10 German Meraz
Julio Zarate Tech. Draw 2 Adolfo Ramos

Bantamweights

Fernando Montiel KO 1 Ciso Morales
Malcolm Tunacao W 12 Seung-Suk Chae
Eric Morel W 12 Gerry Penalosa
William Gonzalez W 12 Jesus Vazquez
Jesus Ruiz W 12 Luis Melendez
Kenji Oba W 10 Srisaket Sithsaithong
Chikara Hashimoto W 10 Yoshihiko Matsuo
Stephane Jamoye KO 7 Hamis Ajali
Chris Avalos KO 4 Jose Nieves
Christian Esquivel KO 1 Reynaldo Cajina

Junior Bantamweights

Nonito Donaire KO 3 Manuel Vargas
Jorge Arce Tech. Win 7 Angky Angkota
Everardo Morales W 10 Elvis Garcia
Naoko Yamaguchi KO 9 Rie Fujimoto
David Gaspar KO 8 Juan Hernandez
Carlos Cuadras KO 5 Oswaldo Rodriguez
Hugo Ruiz KO 3 Francisco Reyes

Flyweights

Daiki Kameda W 12 Denkaosan Kaowichit
(Wins WBA Title)
Gilberto Baas KO 4 Elfego Sierra
Takefumi Sakata KO 1 Eric Siregar
Chris Edwards W 12 Abmerk Shindjuu
Jesus Geles D 10 Luis Doria
Tomonobu Shimizu KO 7 Takayasu Kobayashi

Junior Flyweights

Giovanni Segura KO 3 Walter Tello
(Retains WBA Title)
Juan Carlos Reveco KO 5 Emerson Carvalho
Yasutaka Kuroki KO 6 Takumi Suda
Francisco Rosas W 12 Juan Landaeta
Ramon Hirales KO 2 Michael Arango

Strawweights

Roman Gonzalez KO 4 Ivan Meneses
(Retains WBA Title)
Ji-Hyun Park W 10 Suzannah Warner
Sammy Gutierrez KO 4 Sammy Reyes
Luis Ceja KO 4 David Solano

Nonito Donaire KO 3 Manuel Vargas

Las Vegas, Nevada: Donaire was dealt a new opponent with a different style just three days in advance of his "Latin Fury 13/Pinoy Power 3" main event at the Las Vegas Hilton Pavilion. The change did nothing to faze Donaire, who breezed through the smaller Vargas like Takero Kobayashi through a plate of hot dogs.

"There's a blueprint for Mexican fighters that I have in my head," said Donaire, whose coveted WBA "interim" junior bantamweight belt was not at stake. "It was pretty much the same thing. The jab would go over the hook."

After original opponent Gerson Guerrero failed an eye exam, Top Rank brought in Vargas, 114, Lagos de Moreno, Mexico, who was in training for a March bout against junior flyweight beltholder Rodel Mayol. Donaire, 115, San Leandro, California, via General Santos City, Philippines, held advantages of 2" in height and 4½" in reach.

That didn't bode well for Vargas, who, unlike the aggressive Guerrero, is a pure boxer. Vargas, 26-5-1 (11), was backing up and trying to fight on the outside from the opening bell. Under no pressure, Donaire, 23-1 (15), stalked patiently from a comfortable range. He rocked Vargas with a right hand and left uppercut just 45 seconds into the fight, then again with a left hook 1:10 before the bell.

Vargas, 28, connected with an overhand right 50 seconds into the second round, in one of the few instances where he attacked. It was the only punch he landed during the round, and Donaire, 27, immediately answered it with two rights to the head.

Midway through the third, Donaire threw a dazzling four-punch combo that ended the night. Weaving side to side, he threw a right hand, a left hook, another right hand, and then a left uppercut to the chin. In a bit of a delayed reaction from the uppercut, Vargas fell to his back and was counted out by referee Joe Cortez (USA) at the 1:33 mark.

"I just relaxed and I did what I did in the gym," said Donaire, who added Robert Garcia to his ever-changing corner before meeting Vargas. "I used my right, I used my left, moved side to side. I did everything that I could to make him confused. He didn't know where I was."

As for where he's going, Donaire appears to be headed for a rematch with unified 115-pound beltholder Vic Darchinyan, THE RING's top-ranked junior bantamweight. Darchinyan is

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA/TOP RANK

Donaire comes to the aide of knockout victim Vargas

looking to avenge a devastating 2007 kayo loss, while Donaire is aiming for Darchinyan's belts (the WBA and WBC super flyweight titles).

"Hopefully I can get that fight," said Donaire, who is ranked seventh. "I'm definitely going to fight him, especially if I can acquire two belts."

Television: **Pay-Per-View**
Promoter: **Top Rank**
(2-13-10)

Fernando Montiel KO 1 Ciso Morales

Las Vegas, Nevada: It was an absolutely terrible night for "Kid Terriblé" in the "Latin Fury 13/Pinoy Power 3" co-feature at the Las Vegas Hilton Pavilion. Taking a giant leap up in class, the 22-year-old Morales was felled by a body shot in the opening round against THE RING's ninth-ranked bantamweight Montiel.

Morales, 14-1 (8), was fighting for just the second time outside of his native Philippines. He did a decent job in the first minute and a half using his longer jab to box from a distance and keep the smaller Montiel, 40-2-2 (30), at bay. Montiel, 118, Los Mochis, Mexico, appeared to be patiently feeling out Morales, 118, Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines.

Montiel then struck like a cobra with a little more than a minute remaining in the round. As Morales came forward with a high left hand, Montiel dipped and ripped a left hook

[THE RING Fighter of the Month]

Edwin Valero

He'd been somewhat of an underground star, a human wrecking ball forced to do his work outside the United States due to a failed MRI in New York in 2004. Though he'd been cleared to fight by other doctors, the suspension in New York prevented Edwin Valero from getting a license in the U.S., which helped keep him off U.S. television. As a result, Valero became a YouTube sensation for hard-core American fans; his mystique seems to grow with each kayo victory.

Seven and a half years into his career, Valero, 27-0 (27), finally found his way onto non-pay-per-view U.S. television. Unlike Kimbo Slice, whose reputation as a mixed-martial arts fighter was built via Internet clips, Valero didn't disappoint when finally tested in front of the cameras. Actually, the Venezuelan lightweight slugger proved to be just the type of all-action fighter that boxing needs.

Valero ventured into the home country of Mexican challenger Antonio DeMarco and simply pounded him until DeMarco's corner stopped the fight after nine rounds. Valero showed all the ingredients of a potential mainstream star: power, courage, relentlessness, and a solid chin. He fought through two cuts, including a nasty gash on his forehead. He also neglected any skill that he might possess in order to go for the knockout. In the process, he certainly earned some new fans who shouldn't have to go scurrying to YouTube to watch Valero's future fights.

PHOTO BY OMAR TORRES/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA/TOP RANK

Montiel finishes Morales with a first-round bodyshot

that landed on the belt line. He followed up with a pair of rights to the head, but Morales was already on his way down.

Morales, who dropped down from junior featherweight for the shot at Montiel's WBO bantamweight belt, rolled over onto his stomach and was counted out by Robert Byrd (USA) at the 2:06 mark. It was the first defense of the belt for Montiel, 30, whose future targets include fellow beltholders Hozumi Hasegawa, Anselmo Moreno, and Yonnhy Perez, along with 115-pound star Vic Darchinyan.

Television: **Pay-Per-View**
Promoter: **Top Rank**
(2-13-10)

Eric Morel W 12 Gerry Penalosa

Las Vegas, Nevada: On Top Rank's "Latin Fury 13/Pinoy Power 3" undercard at the Las Vegas Hilton Pavilion, Morel pulled out a split decision against Penalosa in a matchup of fading bantamweights that could have gone either way.

Morel, 34, carried the early rounds, showing flashes of the form that enabled him to rule the flyweight division in the first few years of the past decade before personal demons began to unravel him. Southpaw Penalosa, 37, rallied in the second half, fighting through cuts with veteran composure and his characteristic heart.

Morel, 117, San Juan, Puerto Rico, looked crisp in the opening round, when he used his footwork and 3" reach advantage to control the action from the outside. The forward-moving Penalosa, 118, Manila, Philippines, began to gradually pick up the pace and pressure, but Morel continued moving in and out effectively, landing the cleaner punches and avoiding the ropes. Penalosa's left eye was swelling after the third. In the final 10 seconds of the fourth, Morel wobbled him with a hard right hand.

The momentum began to shift in the fifth, when Morel's pace slowed and Penalosa landed several solid shots in the final 40 seconds. Morel, 42-2 (21), did a dance at the bell, apparently believing he was in control, but Penalosa's body attack was slowing him down.

A minute into the sixth, Penalosa, 54-8-2 (34), landed his best shot of the bout, a straight left to the chin that landed flush. Thirty seconds later, an accidental clash of heads resulted in a cut on Penalosa's right eyelid. Their heads came together again 10 seconds before the bell, this time resulting in a deeper cut over Penalosa's left eye. Referee Russell Mora (USA) again called a time out, during which Penalosa told the ringside doctor that he wanted to continue. Both cuts bled throughout the remainder of the fight.

Morel picked up the pace again in the seventh, when his footwork was the difference in a round in which only 14 total punches landed, according to CompuBox. In the eighth, though, Morel became a more stationary target, using his footwork only after being hit by Penalosa instead of before. Though Morel was still landing, Penalosa was connecting with the harder, cleaner shots.

The final two rounds were close, though it appeared Penalosa's pressure, aggression, and accuracy gave him the edge. Both fighters celebrated at the bell as if they'd won. Judges Paul Smith (USA) and Duane Ford (USA) scored it 115-113 and 116-112, respectively, for Morel, while Dick Houck (USA) had it 115-113 for Penalosa. THE RING also scored it 115-113 for Penalosa. The decision received boos from the Filipino-dominated crowd, though the final CompuBox numbers showed Morel with an advantage in overall punches landed and powerpunch connects.

"I am a little exhausted, but we won," Morel told *El Nuevo Dia*. "Penalosa is a veteran and he put a lot of pressure on me. I give him a lot of credit. He hit me two or three times to the body and it really hurt me. But my lateral movement and my reach were the keys to my victory."

It was Morel's seventh-straight win since a two-year prison stint for sexual assault. The 1996 U.S. Olympian also picked up the vacant WBO "interim" bantamweight belt. Given the fact that Fernando Montiel defended the full-time belt on the same card, the "interim" belt was apparently created for no other reason than to collect sanctioning fees.

Television: **Pay-Per-View**
Promoter: **Top Rank**
(2-13-10)

Daiki Kameda W 12 Denkaosen Kaovichit

Kobe, Japan: The 21-year-old Kameda, 16-2 (11), 112, captured the WBA flyweight belt as he was awarded a unanimous decision over defending titlist Denkaosen Kaovichit, 48-2-1 (20), Samui, Thailand, over 12 ugly rounds at World Memorial Hall.

PHOTO BY JIJI PRESS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Kameda beats Kaovichit to capture WBA belt

The official tallies were as follows: Stanley Christodoulou (South Africa) and Glenn Feldman (USA) both had it 116-110, while Pascuale Procopio (Canada) scored it 114-112, all for the Japanese challenger.

It was a farce rather than a fight. Kameda, Tokyo, Japan, slipped down on five occasions, while Denkaosen, 110¾, was deducted a point in the sixth and 11th rounds due to his repeated clinches. Denkaosen's third defense of the WBA strap was one of the least technical bouts with a title belt at stake held in Japan in recent memory.

The win was noteworthy, however, as it gave the Kameda brothers belts in the same 112-pound category. Daiki won his strap 69 days after elder brother Koki, 23, dethroned WBC ruler Daisuke Naito. Daiki and Koki hope to follow the footsteps of the heavyweight Klitschko brothers, who have dominated the same division in the same era.

Daiki Kameda and Kaovichit, 33, met with the WBA belt on the line last October, when Kaovichit emerged victorious with a majority verdict (115-113 twice and 114-114). This direct rematch was authorized by the WBA after a convention in Colombia in November, though ex-champ Takefumi Sakata was also anxious to face the Thai again in hopes of regaining the belt he lost by a pulverizing kayo to Kaovichit in 2008.

The slick-punching titlist built a points lead in the early rounds by displaying frequent jabs and more flexible combinations against the nervous and stiff Kameda. But Denkaosen became tired so early that he was deducted a point in the sixth for grabbing Kameda too often to avert his awkward assault. From that point, the tide turned in favor of the younger challenger, who utilized his power and attacked the visibly fading Denkaosen with one punch at a time.

Kameda was in command from the seventh through ninth rounds. Referee Lahcen Oumghar (Netherlands) again took a point from Denkaosen in the 11th. The more aggressive challenger controlled the 12th round. There were more clinches than exchanges during the course of the bout. Hall of Famer Khaosai Galaxy, Denkaosen's partner in Galaxy Promotions, felt Denkaosen had won by a slight margin even after the point deductions.

Promoter: **Kameda Promotions**

(2-7-10)

Joe Koizumi

Edwin Valero KO 9 Antonio DeMarco

Monterrey, Mexico: The knockout streak continues, but the perception that Valero is a one-dimensional puncher is coming to an end. In defeating DeMarco, probably the second most capable opponent of the Venezuelan's career behind Vicente Mosquera, Valero was never able to take his opponent off his feet, but he used just the right balance of boxing skill and raw aggression to deliver sustained punishment. Battling through a gaping wound in his forehead, "Dinamita" arguably won every round en route to forcing DeMarco's corner to throw in the towel after the ninth.

Valero, who won his first 19 pro fights by first-round knockout, was expected to be a significant attraction in American rings by now, but a drunk-driving arrest cost him a U.S. visa and left Arena Monterrey as logical a home as any for this fight. Still, Valero got important American television exposure out of his second defense of the WBC lightweight belt, as Showtime's cameras were there to capture his first bout on non-pay-per-view American TV.

Challenger DeMarco, meanwhile, was already a Showtime regular, having graduated from several *ShoBox* appearances to a Showtime *Championship Boxing* slot. It was widely believed that the 24-year-old DeMarco had a shot at the upset, as long as he could survive Valero's vaunted early power.

DeMarco, 135, Tijuana, Mexico, looked exceedingly loose in front of the partisan crowd as he made his way to the ring, whereas Valero, 135, Miranda, Venezuela, appeared tense and nervous. The fighting action, however, contradicted the stories their expressions told. Valero was calm, confident, and almost always punched first, while DeMarco was hesitant to let his hands go and dug himself an early hole.

Speaking of early holes, in round two, Valero's right temple began gushing blood after DeMarco missed with a left and connected with his left elbow instead. In accordance with the WBC's unpopular rule, referee Laurence Cole (USA) took a point away from DeMarco while a ringside doctor deemed Valero capable of continuing. With blood pouring down his

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Bloody Valero clocks DeMarco

face, Valero stepped up the aggression and the two southpaws slugged it out down the stretch of the round.

Valero's corner never came close to stopping the blood, but the 28-year-old Venezuelan didn't let it bother him. He just kept closing the distance against his taller opponent and landing straight left hands, while DeMarco displayed entirely too much patience, waiting in vain for the titleholder to slow down. Late in round four, Valero trapped DeMarco in a corner for the first time and landed two lefts and a right, a preview of a scene that would repeat itself with regularity as the fight wore on.

With the WBC's open scoring system in effect in Mexico, the judges' tallies were announced as 40-35 and 39-36 (twice) for Valero at the end of the fourth. DeMarco knew he needed to make something happen, but he couldn't get out of the way of Valero's straight left long enough to get any work done, and Dinamita was proving very crafty and adept at getting in and out of range. DeMarco landed an excellent counter right hook late in the sixth, his best punch of the fight to that point, but he still fell far short of winning the round.

In the seventh, DeMarco began pausing on the ropes and eating combinations with increased regularity. The Mexican challenger grew desperate and started taking more risks in the eighth, but he paid the price, leaving himself open and walking straight into one left hand after another. At the end of the eighth, the scores were 79-72 across the board, and DeMarco's corner was talking seriously about stopping the fight. Nothing changed in the ninth—more combinations along the ropes, no reason for hope from DeMarco—so when a mentally defeated DeMarco returned to his corner, trainer Romulo Quirarte called off the bout with no objection from his fighter.

"It wasn't my night," said DeMarco, 23-2-1 (17), after losing for the first time in almost four years. "As a Mexican fighter, I did not want to quit, but my corner saw throughout the fight that Valero was the better fighter."

"This was definitely my best performance," declared Valero, 27-0 (27). "I learned I have to pace myself and can't just come out in the beginning rounds so aggressively. I have to save some of that for the later rounds … they thought I wasn't a boxer and that I couldn't deal with his reach. They didn't know that I was a lateral fighter. I showed them that I had a better defense and better legs."

Soon after the fight, buzz began circulating that Valero is looking to move to 140 pounds, in hopes of eventually earning a fight with Manny Pacquiao. Specifically, talk of Valero vs. undefeated titlist Tim Bradley quickly bubbled to the surface. Meanwhile, the WBC didn't wait long at all to name Valero a "champion in recess," deciding three days after the fight that the cut on his forehead presented a valid reason to create a new vacant title to fill.

Television: **Showtime**
Promoter: **Gary Shaw Productions**
(2-6-10)

Glen Johnson KO 6 Yusaf Mack

Davie, Florida: In a matchup of top-10 light heavyweights, the 41-year-old Johnson delivered a sharp counter shot to the recent changing-of-the-guard trend in the geriatric 175-pound division with his impressive stoppage of the 30-year-old Mack at Nova Southeastern University.

Johnson, 173½, earned a mandatory shot at IBF beltholder and sixth-ranked Tavoris Cloud. He did it by patiently breaking down the seventh-ranked Mack, 175, in an action-filled bout that saw several good exchanges. "I feel good," said Johnson, who moved up from number three to number two in The Ring ratings. "I'm enjoying it. I work very hard at my craft. I'm holding up pretty good. I'm trying to take it as far as I can."

The 6'1" Mack, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, put his reach and hand speed advantages to good use in the opening round against the 5'11" Johnson, Miami, Florida via Jamaica. Mack, 28-3-2 (17), stayed on his toes and boxed well. He also thumped Johnson, 50-13-2 (34), with a hard counter on three occasions immediately after the forward-moving "Road Warrior" tagged him.

Johnson did some decent bodywork in the first round, and it might have been partially to blame for Mack opting to go flatfooted and battle at close range in the second. That played to the strengths of Johnson, who got the better of the exchanges in the round. Mack went back on his toes in the third, but was an easy target for the jab and bodyshots of Johnson, who landed a solid three-punch combo 40 seconds before the bell.

After getting outworked on the inside in the first half of the fourth, Mack backed up a bit and began firing from medium range. He landed a series of sweeping rights in the final minute to steal the round, at least on The Ring card.

Mack continued fighting from that range in the fifth, when he fought as a southpaw for the first 30 seconds. Backing off his trademark pressure, Johnson allowed Mack to stay

PHOTO BY JAVIEL CENTENO/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Johnson back in title hunt after stopping Mack

on the outside, but managed to land the cleaner shots. "(Staying outside) was definitely a conscious effort," said Johnson, who didn't feel he was landing effectively inside. "I am getting a little bit older. I'm being a little bit smarter about my work."

Mack again opened the sixth as a lefty. Trading with his back against the ropes, he ate a flush right to the face that was set up by a series of pawing jabs. Mack, who had won five straight since moving up to 175 pounds, fell to his knees just 37 seconds into the round.

Mack got right back up, and Johnson showed veteran patience in finishing the job. Applying steady pressure, he used another right to drop Mack with a minute remaining, then put Mack on one knee with a left hook at the 2:21 mark, prompting ref Frank Gentile (Florida) to stop it. THE RING had Johnson leading 48-47 at the time of the stoppage.

Mack landed just 10 percent of his jabs (11-of-114), according to CompuBox. Johnson was busier and slightly more accurate, landing 107-of-451 shots (24 percent), compared to 65-of-304 (21 percent) for Mack. Next up, the spry vet will try to keep up with the 28-year-old Cloud.

"Tavoris Cloud is a tough fighter," Johnson said. "He's an all-action guy, the type of guys I like to fight. I think it will be an explosive fight and a fan-friendly fight. I'm looking forward to fighting him because he's a good fighter."

Television: **ESPN2**

Promoter: **GD Big Promotions**

(2-5-10)

Beibut Shumenov W 12 Gabriel Campillo

Las Vegas, Nevada: The first month of 2010 brought fans an early candidate for worst verdict of the year as Shumenov was awarded a highly dubious split decision and a light heavyweight belt in his rematch with Campillo at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino.

Campillo, a road warrior who has fought in five countries and four continents in his last five bouts, retained the WBA strap in August with a somewhat controversial majority decision win against Shumenov in Shumenov's native Kazakhstan. The slick southpaw, Madrid, Spain, appeared to dominate the rematch after the competitive early rounds, but two of the three American judges saw things differently.

Jerry Roth (Nevada) scored it 115-113, while Patricia Morse Jarman (Nevada) handed in a ridiculous tally of 117-111 for Shumenov, who recently relocated to Las Vegas. Levi Martinez (New Mexico) had it 117-111 for Campillo. THE RING scored it 116-112 for Campillo, who was making his third defense.

It was an action-packed, entertaining fight the entire way. The first three rounds were especially close. Shumenov, 9-1 (6), outfought Campillo, 19-3 (6), in the first three minutes. In the second, the slick Campillo, 174½, began backing up the forward-moving Shumenov, 175, with his counters. The third was tough to score, with Campillo occasionally backing up Shumenov, but Shumenov landing the heavier shots, including a right hook that opened a cut over Campillo's left eye.

Campillo found his groove in the fourth, when he began outboxing the 2004 Olympian. Campillo, 31, was consistently busier, consistently landed the cleaner shots, and consistently avoided the often-undisciplined attack of Shumenov, 26. As the one-sided ninth wore on, referee Jay Nady (USA) appeared ready to step in as Campillo battered a fading Shumenov, who bled from a cut on his nose. Shumenov gamely motioned for Campillo to come at him.

Campillo relaxed a bit in the 10th, and the gutsy Shumenov took advantage by outworking him to take the round. Campillo fought off Shumenov's desperate charge at the start of the 11th and was back in control by the latter half of the round. The final round was much of the same, with Shumenov attacking early and Campillo blocking most of the shots, then reasserting his dominance.

Shumenov looked dejected after the bell, then appeared surprised after the scores were read. His words told a different story. "I'm not surprised by the decision," said Shumenov, who fought for the first time under new trainer Kevin Barry. "I thought I won the fight. I feel great."

Campillo landed 320-of-766 total shots (42 percent), according to CompuBox, as opposed to 219-of-757 (29 percent) for Shumenov. However, Shumenov outlanded Campillo by a total of 100 to 60 in the first minute of each round, while Campillo had a 260 to 119 connect advantage in the second and third minutes. Did Jarman and Roth nod off after the first 60 seconds of each round?

Campillo's team filed a protest with the WBA immediately afterward. The organization was still investigating as this issue went to press, though it was revealed a few days after the fight that Martinez was the only judge approved by the WBA. Given

the controversy involved with their first two meetings, a rubber match seems inevitable.

Television: **FOX Sports**
Promoters: **KZ Event Productions, Golden Boy Promotions**
(1-29-10)

Jorge Arce Tech. Win 7 Angky Angkota

Mexico City, Mexico: Arce almost always provides his fans with a generous offering of gore. It's fitting, then, that the fading Mexican star is proving harder to finish off than a B-movie slasher.

Arce, 115, capitalized on an unexpected shot at a vacant belt by steadily tattooing the heavily tattooed Angkota, 115, at the Plaza de Toros Arroyo. Though Arce spilled some blood, the majority of it came from Angkota, who was cut over his right eye from an accidental headbutt, causing the bout to go to the cards in the seventh round.

The 30-year-old Arce, Los Mochis, Mexico, said beforehand that he would retire if he lost to Angkota, Semarang, Indonesia. He looked finished after one-sided losses in 2009 to Vic Darchinyan (KO by 11) and Simphiwe Nonggayi (L 12). Still, the WBO deemed Arce, 53-6-1 (40), worthy to fight for its 115-pound belt, which was vacated in November when Marvin Sonsona failed to make weight for a defense. The 28-year-old Angkota, 23-5 (14), got the shot on the strength of six-straight wins against opponents with a combined record of 28-30-5, according to BoxRec.

The circumstances might have been questionable, but Arce's performance was legit. Angkota got off to a good start in the opening round, when he used his reach advantage and movement to hammer "Travieso" from a distance with power shots. Never known for his defense, Arce was bleeding from the nose after the first. He continued to apply pressure in the second as he pushed Angkota into a corner, creating the type of close-range struggle that plays to Arce's strengths.

With Angkota attempting to counter while backed into a corner, Arce dominated the second, third, and fourth rounds. He landed well to the body and head, shook off a minor cut and a few clashes of heads, and easily absorbed Angkota's shots, several of which landed cleanly. Angkota avoided the corners during the first half of the fifth, when he outboxed Arce in the center of the ring. Arce pressured Angkota back into the ropes in the final half of the round, where he again dominated the action. Angkota continued to get bullied along the ropes in the sixth.

In the seventh, Angkota again went back to boxing in the center of the ring, but the two got in close enough for the clash of heads that led to referee Sam Viruet (USA) stopping it at the 1:34 mark of the round, on the advice of the ringside physician. There was no protest from Angkota, who appeared relieved.

Dr. Rueben Garcia (USA) and Clark Sammartino (USA) each scored it 60-54, and Alejandro Lopez (Mexico) had it 58-56, all for Arce. THE RING scored it 59-55 for Arce, who likely fought himself into at least one more decent payday at 115 pounds.

Television: **FOX Sports/FOX Sports Espanol**
Promoter: **Top Rank**
(1-30-10)

Sebastian Sylvester KO 10 Billy Lyell

Neubrandenburg, Germany: When Spanish contender Pablo Navascues failed a drug test and was forced out of his scheduled encounter with IBF middleweight beltholder Sylvester, 159½, Greifswald, Germany, the unheralded Lyell, 156¾, Youngstown, Ohio, was brought in as a late replacement, but he was no match. Sylvester controlled exchanges from the outset and, unlike his fellow Youngstown citizen, world middleweight champion Kelly Pavlik, Lyell lacked the firepower to change the momentum before American referee Earl Brown intervened at the 0:37 mark of the 10th round before a capacity crowd of 4,500 at Jahnsportforum.

Lyell's biggest claim to fame was a split decision victory against previously unbeaten Irishman John Duddy in April 2009, but Duddy's limitations—which had been made clear over a lengthy period—made this a dubious distinction at best. Lyell, 25, had suffered two reverses early in his career, and Charles Whittaker, James Kirkland, Yori Boy Campas, and David Lopez all beat him as well. Sylvester, 29, who is the least formidable of the various middleweight title claimants, was simply a cut above the light-punching American (this Lyell is no Ron Lyle) and there was never any doubt as to what the outcome would be.

Nicknamed "The Hurricane," Sylvester made his way through a heavy snowstorm to land Lyell in a

JAIME LOPEZ/JAM MEDIA/GETTY IMAGES

Arce on the attack en route to win over Angkota

torturous tempest, penetrating the challenger's guard with a spearing jab and solid left-right combinations. Lyell was hurt by the early onslaught, but hung on grimly, establishing his bravery at the very least.

Outgunned and outmaneuvered, Lyell remained in survival mode, so Sylvester, 33-3 (16), changed his approach and tried to draw his opponent's lead in the middle rounds in an effort to develop new openings. Inevitably, Lyell, 21-8 (4), took the bait and Sylvester capitalized, stinging the American with his sharp punching and rocking him with power shots. By the 10th round, Lyell had little resistance remaining and the last semblance of this was punched out of him in the opening seconds before his trainer, Jack Loew, threw in the towel, prompting referee Brown to wave off a one-sided affair. It was Sylvester's first defense of the vacant belt he captured last September in a split-decision win against Giovanni Lorenzo.

"I fought my heart out but I take my hat off to Sylvester," Lyell said. "He is very strong. I tried to slow him down, but I could not do it. His power made the difference tonight. His right kept hitting me on the same spot all the time. He deserved to win."

Sylvester was magnanimous in his response: "It was great to defend my title in front of my fantastic fans. I am not 100 percent pleased with my performance. I think I can do better, but I have retained my title and that is all that matters. Lyell was very active and hard to hit, but I am glad I wore him down." The German is likely to face mandatory challenger Roman Karmazin next.

Promoter: **Sauerland Event**
(1-30-10)
Brian Doogan

Yuriorkis Gamboa KO 2 Rogers Mtagwa

New York, New York: Mtagwa had given Juan Manual Lopez so much trouble last October that many thought he would give Gamboa an equal tussle. Instead, the very style that had nearly routed Lopez was tailor-made for the quick-handed Gamboa, who dropped Mtagwa thrice en route to an easy second-round stoppage before a sold-out crowd at the WAMU Theater at Madison Square Garden.

Gamboa, 126, Miami, Florida by way of Cuba, seemed downright Tysonesque as he quickly and coldly dissected Mtagwa, 122, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, landing quick, jolting shots that seemed to hurt Mtagwa each time they connected. A left hook high on Mtagwa's forehead resulted in a knockdown in the first, and after that it just became easier for Gamboa, until referee Steve Smoger (USA) stopped the bout at 2:35 of the second round. Mtagwa, 25-14-2 (18), couldn't seem to keep his hands up, couldn't get his head out of the way, and looked to be a shot fighter. Some ringsiders commented that Mtagwa, 30, had grown old overnight, that he'd overtrained, that the bout with Lopez had taken too much out of him, or that his near stoppage of Lopez had been something of a fluke. In truth, Gamboa was simply too quick and strong.

The 28-year-old Gamboa, 17-0 (15), has improved considerably from just a few fights ago. He's corrected some of the recklessness that had plagued him in the past to become a self-assured puncher with lightning reflexes. Against Mtagwa he showed power with both hands, and his right lead, especially, crackled like a bullwhip. Many observers along press row commented that he seems to be the cream of the featherweight division, and many said they would pick him over Lopez.

Of course, a talented young fighter is supposed to look good against an aging journeyman like Mtagwa. It's just that Mtgwa had performed so well against Lopez that Gamboa now looks like a destroyer. But while he left a lot of tongues wagging, a more accurate gauge of where Gamboa stands will be in his next few bouts. Top Rank promoter Bob Arum has decided to postpone any meetings between Gamboa and Lopez in order to let them build their names a bit more. Chris John and Celestino Caballero were mentioned as possible opponents for the Gamboa-Lopez duo. Either opponent would be an interesting test for Gamboa.

Television: **HBO**
Promoter: **Top Rank**
(1-23-10)
Don Stradley

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA/TOP RANK

Gamboa blows away Mtagwa in the second round

Juan Manuel Lopez KO 7 Steven Luevano

New York, New York: Lopez, 125½, Caguas, Puerto Rico, had much to prove after his last appearance in New York, when he'd barely won a decision against Rogers Mtagwa. On that night, stamina problems combined with the gameness of his opponent made Lopez look somewhat less than Top Rank's next meal ticket.

What we learned about Lopez against Mtagwa, and then Luevano, is that he's a fighter who needs a bit of room to do his thing. He's a classic, stand-up boxer who throws neat combinations, and he needs some space to set himself up. Mtagwa didn't allow it, bulling in and upsetting Lopez' timing. Luevano, however, is also a stand-up fighter. And without the firepower to hurt Lopez, Luevano was a sitting duck (or standing duck, if you prefer) for everything Lopez threw. Yes folks, styles do make fights.

The end came early in the seventh, when Lopez, 26, landed a monster right hook that seemed to drain the life out of Luevano, 28. A barrage of punches followed until Luevano collapsed in a corner. He rose to his feet, but referee Benjy Esteves (USA) waved the bout over with 0:44 remaining.

Lopez, 28-0 (25), paced himself against Luevano, as opposed to his last bout when he wore himself out trading blows with Mtagwa. This time, Lopez was calm and calculating, setting up his southpaw left-crosses with nice right jabs. He was also fortunate that Luevano has a low knockout ratio, because Luevano tagged him many times in the early rounds, landing flush blows that would have been disastrous if Yuriorkis Gamboa had landed them. Porous defense aside, Lopez continued his methodical dismantling of Luevano, which grew more intense with each round, until Luevano, 126, La Puente, California, 37-2-1 (15), finally succumbed.

The win earned Lopez the WBO featherweight strap, which Luevano had successfully defended five times after taking it from Nicky Cook in July 2007. The kayo also moved Lopez a little bit closer to a showdown with Gamboa, the other featherweight beltholder at Top Rank.

Promoter Bob Arum, however, is hoping Gamboa and Lopez become hotter properties, because selling out the WAMU Theater isn't quite like selling out the Garden. Irish middleweight John Duddy actually seemed to get a bigger reaction fighting on the non-televised undercard than either Gamboa or Lopez. Also, Arum just might agree with observers who feel Gamboa would blow the doors off Lopez. There's no reason to rush them into a showdown, not when he can still make a few bucks with Lopez as an undefeated Puerto Rican star.

Television: **HBO**
Promoter: **Top Rank**
(1-23-10)
Don Stradley

Carlos Tamara KO 12 Brian Viloria

Manila, Philippines: Fans and media in Manila were convinced that Tamara was merely a handpicked opponent for Viloria, a simple tune-up with the ultimate goal for Viloria being a much talked about two-fight deal with THE RING junior flyweight champion Ivan Calderon in the coming months. The week of the fight, however, Team Viloria would barely mention Calderon's name. Viloria even went so far as telling a large press conference that, "As far as I'm concerned, I have no future other than this fight on Saturday."

While obviously trying to relate how focused he was on the fight at hand with Tamara, that statement proved to be eerily prophetic as Tamara pulled the upset at the Cuneta Astrodome.

PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Lopez had too much firepower for Luevano

Tamara, 21-4-0 (15), was clearly no pushover, and Vilora was right to pay rapt attention. The 26-year-old was, like Viloria, a former Olympian (2004), and like Viloria had also persevered through some rough patches in his career. His four losses were all close decisions and had come at the hands of quality opponents. The major downside to Tamara, 108, North Bergen, New Jersey via Colombia, was that he had barely fought in the last two years due to managerial disputes.

Viloria, 26-3 (15), came into the fight riding a wave of good vibes about his career. His well-documented slump of 2006-07 was emphatically erased with a brilliant year in 2009: first a brutal kayo of Mexico's Ulises Solis in April, then a solid unanimous decision victory against Jesus Uribe in September. With trainer Robert Garcia by his side, the future

certainly seemed limitless for Viloria, 108, Waipahu, Hawaii, who was making his third defense of the IBF flyweight belt.

The first half of the fight gave no indications to the contrary. After establishing his territory in the first three rounds, Viloria came out in the fourth and laid down the law, hammering vicious shots to Tamara's midsection and clearly hurting the Colombian. In the fourth frame, Tamara had his guard down low to protect his midsection, but Viloria then went upstairs, connecting with several solid combinations to Tamara's head. Viloria appeared to be in complete control of the fight.

The two fighters engaged in some good technical boxing during the next three rounds, but Viloria still looked confident and on his game, and was by now well ahead on the scorecards. Then, inexplicably, the bottom fell out for Viloria.

Viloria could have simply jabbed and moved his way to a win, but he continued to engage Tamara as if he wanted to put him away and please the crowd. Viloria had trained 3½ months for this fight, but so had Tamara, and the ninth round proved that the Colombian had more in reserve. Early in the ninth, Viloria had Tamara pinned in the corner and began throwing a barrage of leather. Tamara blocked or dodged most of the shots, then stepped on the gas. With Viloria winded, Tamara began firing and landing blows that continued for a solid 90 seconds. Viloria was never seriously hurt, but the tide had turned, both physically and emotionally.

Tamara's onslaught continued in the 10th, as did Viloria's slide. Tamara peppered Viloria with blows up and down. Viloria dug deep and landed shots of his own. The fight was clearly now hanging in the balance. By the start of the 11th, it was clear the Colombian had found a wellspring of energy, while the Filipino-American was merely trying to hang on. Tamara, sensing a career-changing upset, unloaded on Viloria. A visibly tired Viloria gallantly stood and traded. By the end of the round, Tamara was bouncing on his toes while Viloria was totally spent.

Viloria came out for the 12th armed only with his huge heart. Tamara went in for the finish. For the fourth-straight round, he unleashed a barrage of punches that hurt Viloria. Several times Viloria swung wildly and fell to the ground in total exhaustion. Then, midway through the round, Tamara pinned Viloria up against the ropes. After taking some serious punishment to the head, referee Bruce McTavish (Philippines) stepped in and mercifully called a halt with 1:45 remaining. At the time of the stoppage, Joe Garcia (USA) and Ray Reed (Australia) had Viloria ahead 106-103 and 105-104, respectively, while Somsak Sirianant (Thailand) favored Tamara by a 105-104 tally after 11 completed rounds.

As Tamara and his corner wildly celebrated his improbable comeback victory, Viloria had to be helped back to his corner, where he collapsed. He was immediately rushed to the hospital, where he was treated for dehydration and exhaustion and kept under observation for two days. After his release, Viloria, 29, said he would probably fight again, but needed time and rest to find the answer.

Promoter: **Solar Entertainment**

(1-23-10)

Ted Lerner

Vanes Martirosyan W 10 Kassim Ouma

Las Vegas, Nevada: This junior middleweight 10-rounder at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino between "The Nightmare" and "The Dream" looked on paper like a matchup not only of two fighters with contrasting nicknames, but of two fighters headed in opposite directions. Martirosyan, an undefeated 2004 Olympian, was coming off two of the best wins of his career, knockouts of Andrey Tsurkan and Willie Lee. Ouma, a former beltholder, had lost four of five to increasingly mediocre opposition. The question wasn't whether Martirosyan would win; it was whether he'd knock Ouma out or settle for a lopsided decision.

Immediately after 10 rounds of entertaining action, however, that question of whether Martirosyan would win, seemingly a foregone conclusion an hour earlier, remained unanswered. When the decision was announced moments later, it turned out the Glendale, California-based Armenian did indeed prevail. But opinions were pretty well divided on whether he deserved to.

Ouma, 150, Palm Beach, Florida, via Kampala, Uganda, showed energy and determination unseen from him in several years. He reportedly had an outstanding training camp with former lightweight champ Livingstone Bramble in Vegas, and though his best days are behind him (in his prime, Ouma would likely have dominated Martirosyan), he's not nearly as used up as he'd looked the past couple of years.

The first few rounds were close, with the 31-year-old Ouma applying steady pressure, while Martirosyan, 153, rallied with quick, accurate punches in the final 30 seconds of most rounds to arguably steal them. Ouma, calm and in control, seemed to win the fifth and sixth handily against an opponent who seemed to be having trouble adjusting mentally to the fact that Ouma was trying to win. But Martirosyan, 23, came back to capture the seventh and eighth with good bodywork and several head-snapping combinations.

Just when it seemed the younger man was taking over, southpaw Ouma clipped him with a right hook in the ninth that dropped him to the canvas. Martirosyan was unhurt and sprung to his feet just a few seconds into American referee Kenny Bayless' count with an acrobatic nip-up, and he rallied to win the rest of the round. So it was a matter of opinion whether to score it 10-9 or 10-8 for Ouma. The 10th was the best round of the fight for Martirosyan, who seemed to have Ouma, 26-7-1 (16), ready to go and might have stopped him if he'd had one more round to work with.

Still, many at ringside believed Martirosyan's late rally had failed to erase Ouma's early advantage. THE RING scored it a 95-95 draw. But the Nevada judges handed in disturbingly lopsided scores for The Nightmare. C.J. Ross and Dave Moretti both saw it 97-93, and Dick Houck had it 97-92.

"I made the fight tougher than it should have been," Martirosyan, 27-0 (17), said during his postfight interview. Too bad the judges were clueless as to just how tough it was.

Television: **FOX Sports/FOX Sports Espanol**

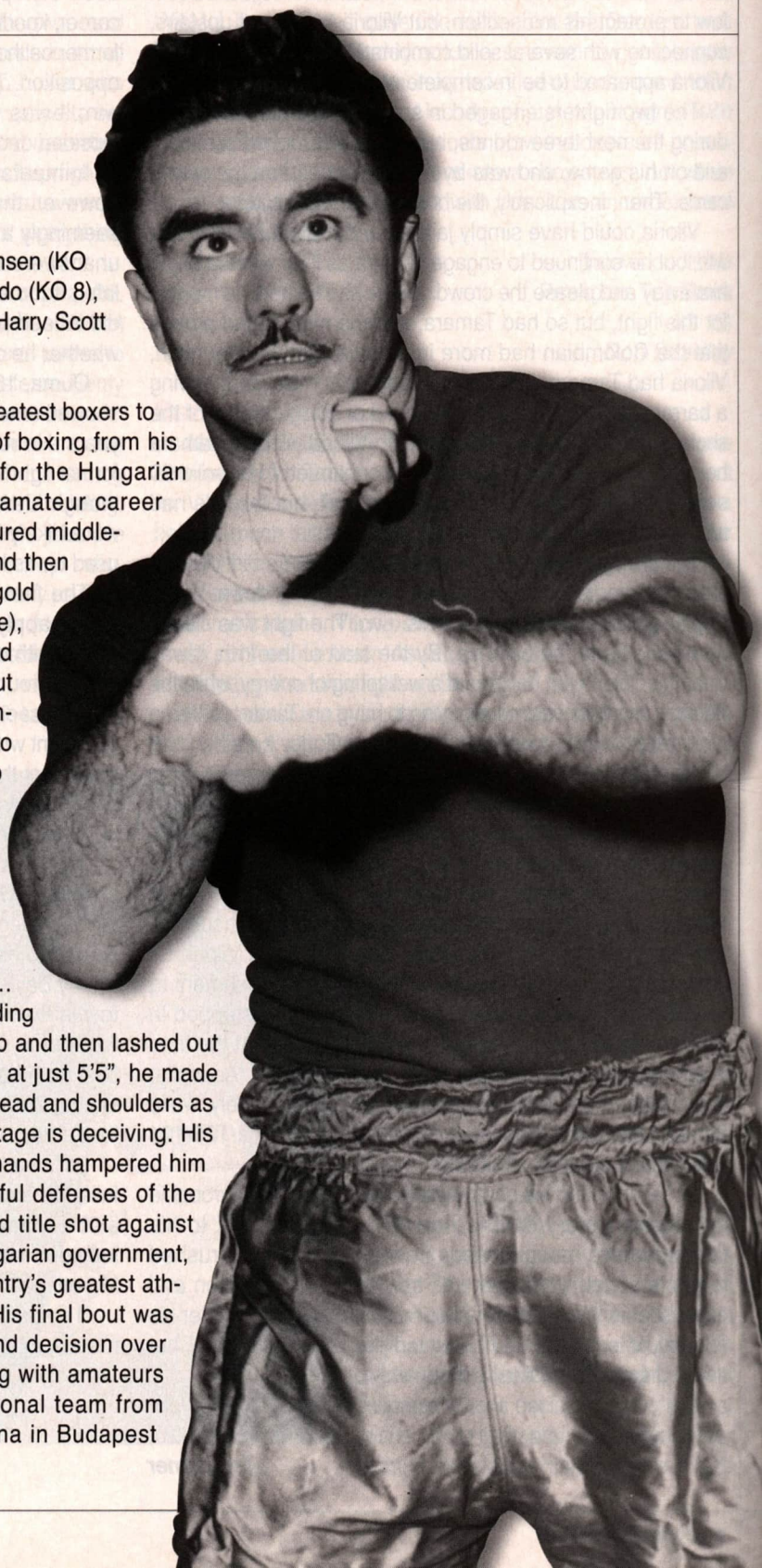
Promoter: **Top Rank**

(1-16-10) ■

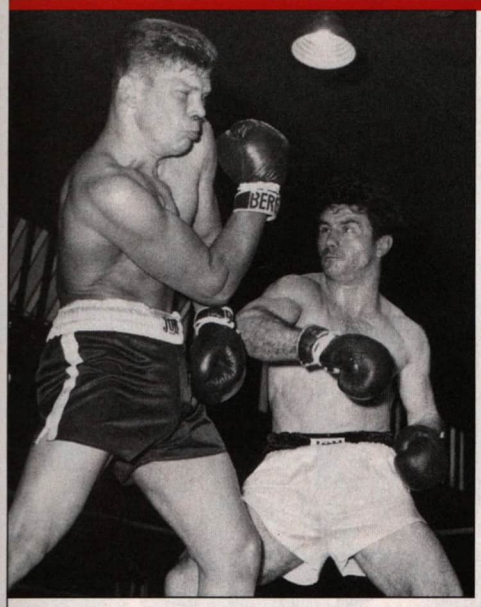
Hall of Fame Profile

THE RING features a thumbnail biography of a ring great who has received the ultimate honor: induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York

Lazlo Papp

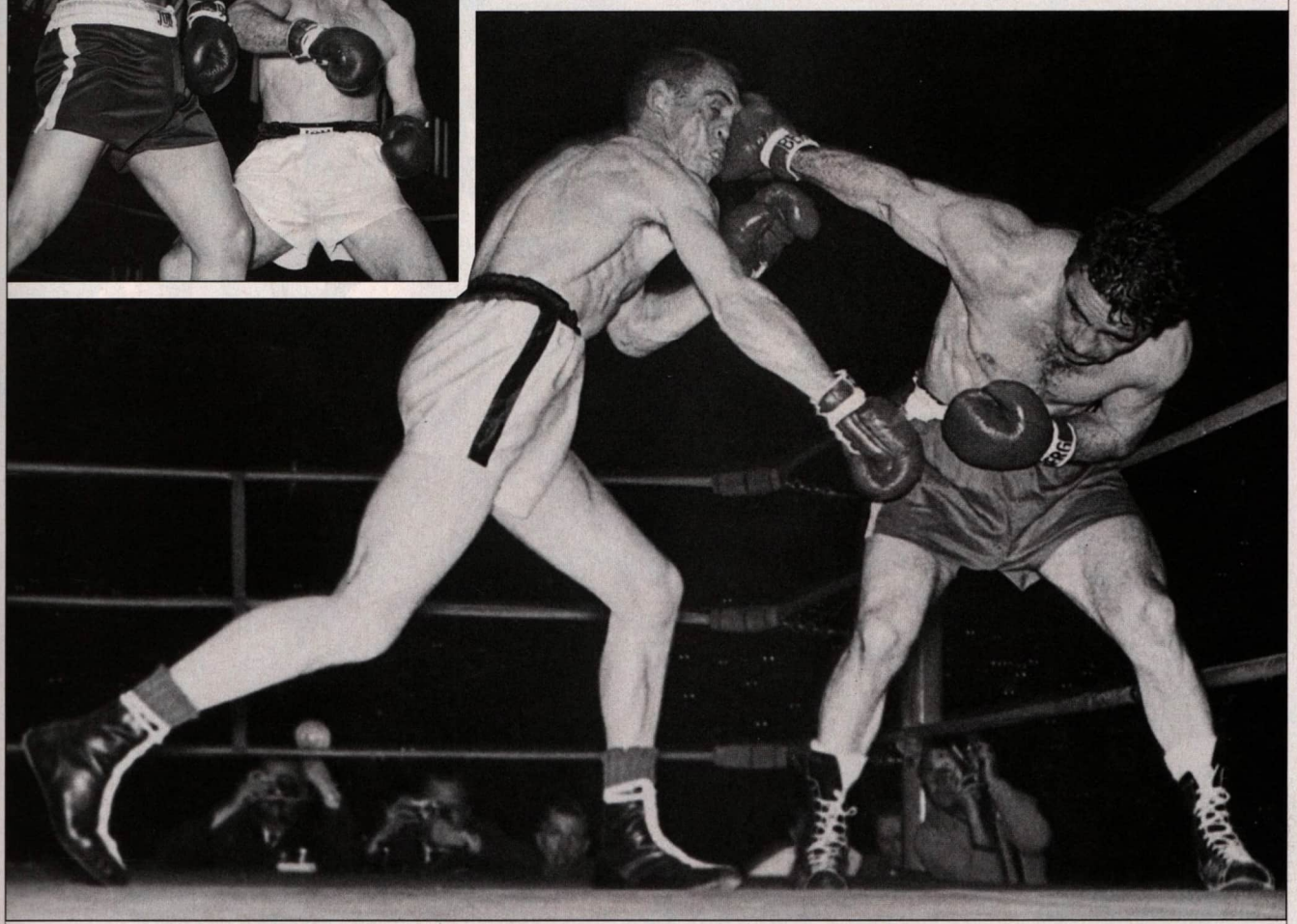


Birthdate: March 25, 1926
Date of Death: October 16, 2003
Birthplace: Budapest, Hungary
Weight Class: Middleweight
Record: 27-0-2 (15)
Title held: European middleweight
Best Performances: Christian Christensen (KO 7, KO 4), Peter Mueller (KO 8, KO 4), Luis Folledo (KO 8), Hippolyte Annex (KO 9), Andre Drille (W 10), Harry Scott (W 10), Mick Leahy (W 15)
Year of IBHOF Induction: 2001
Background: Regarded as one of the greatest boxers to never win a world title ... Inherited his love of boxing from his father and took up the sport while working for the Hungarian National Railroad ... Extraordinary 288-12 amateur career resulted in three Olympic gold medals: Captured middleweight gold in 1948 at the London Games and then dropped down to junior middleweight to win gold in 1952 (Helsinki) and again in 1956 (Melbourne), where he beat future light heavyweight world champion Jose Torres in the championship bout ... The Hungarian uprising against the Communist government in '56 threw the country into turmoil, but Papp was still allowed to turn pro the following year at the age of 31. He was, however, forced to fight out of Vienna, Austria, because the Communist state forbid professional sports ... Fought in Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Denmark, and Austria ... Won the European middleweight title by knocking out Christian Christensen in Vienna in '62 ... By then Papp had developed into an outstanding pro who advanced behind a stiff southpaw jab and then lashed out with hard, accurate punches. Relatively short at just 5'5", he made himself an ever smaller target by ducking his head and shoulders as he came forward ... Modest knockout percentage is deceiving. His left hook was a murderous punch, but brittle hands hampered him throughout his career ... Tallied six successful defenses of the European title and was closing in on a world title shot against reigning champ Joey Giardello when the Hungarian government, which had always been suspicious of the country's greatest athlete, revoked his permit to travel abroad ... His final bout was on October 9, 1964, when he won a 15-round decision over Mick Leary ... Turned his attention to working with amateurs and was head coach of the Hungarian national team from 1971 to 1992 ... The Papp Laszlo Sportarena in Budapest was named in his honor.

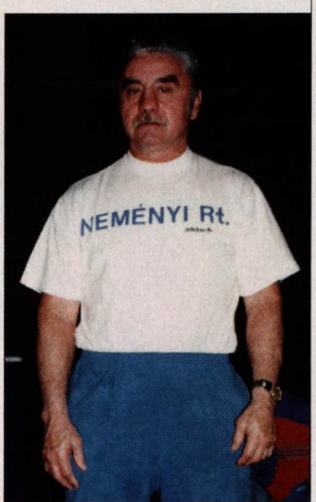


Papp rips into Gerhard Moll during his third pro fight, which ended in a sixth-round decision in the Hungarian's favor. The bout took place in Hamburg. All told, Papp fought seven times in Germany as a pro.

Chris Christensen absorbs a flush right from Papp in their 1962 bout in Vienna in which Papp won the European middleweight title via seventh-round knockout. The Hungarian's awkward style is clearly illustrated in this photo.



In his final fight, Papp outpointed British middleweight champion Mick Leahy in front of 15,000 fans in Vienna. The Hungarian government stopped Papp from fighting, allegedly because boxing for financial gain was "incompatible with socialist principles."



Papp, photographed while in Tampa, Florida, with the Hungarian national team in 1992.

POR LOS QUE SE ATREVEN A SUBIR AL RING

CON CARÁCTER

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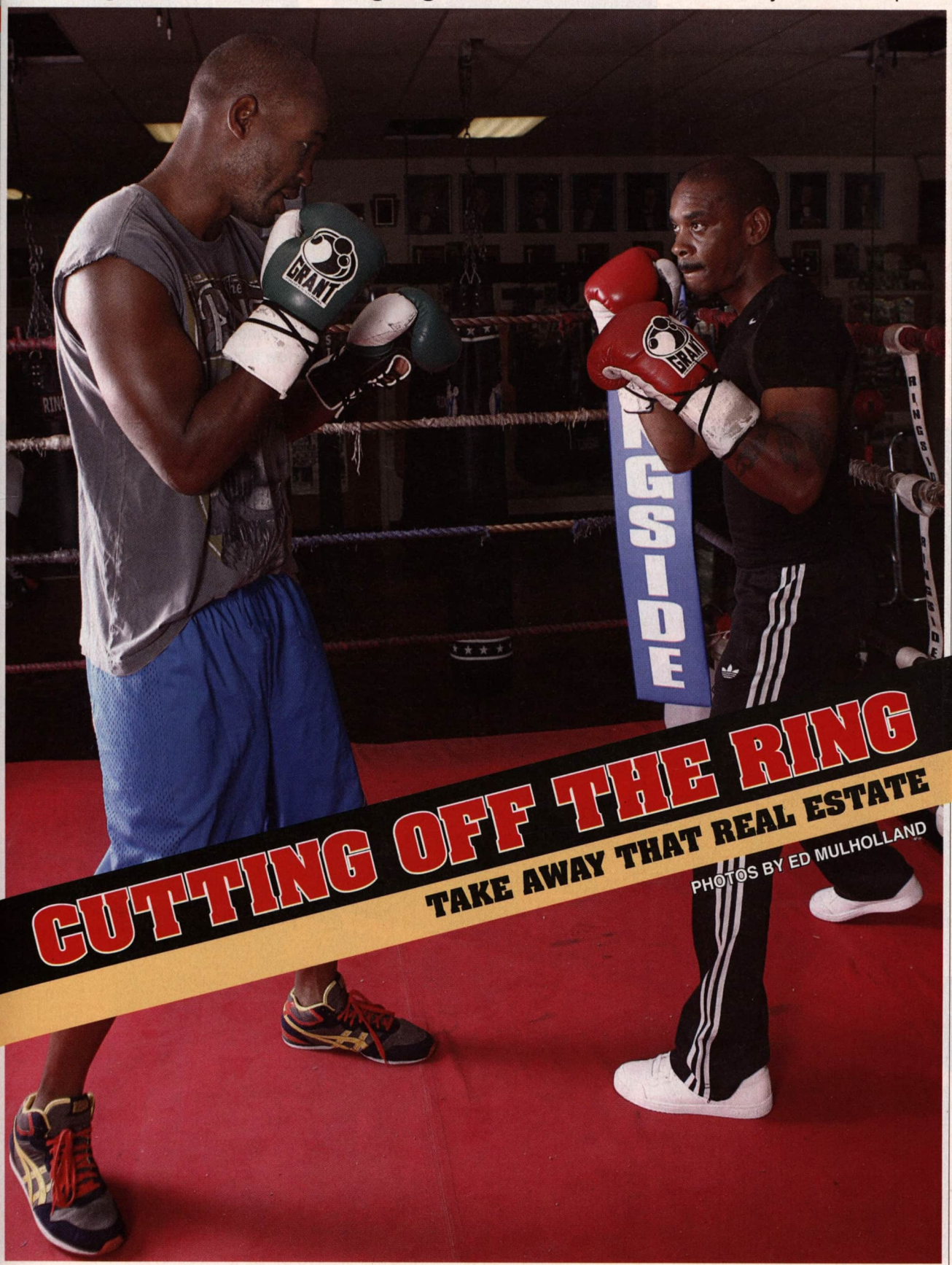
Perfect Execution

Boxing Lessons From A Living Legend

By Bernard Hopkins



CUTTING OFF THE RING

TAKE AWAY THAT REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY ED MULHOLLAND

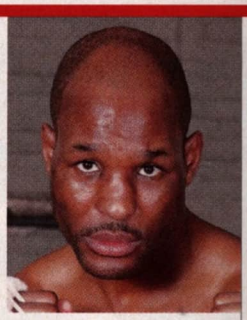
FIND THE LINE

Sooner or later, you're going to come up against a guy who's a mover and you're going to have to know how to trap him so you can slow him down and get your combinations off. You have to know how to catch a guy, to cut off the ring on him, and not follow him. Because if he knows what he's doing, he's not just moving to stay away from you. He's moving to set traps, to walk you into things. And if you just follow him around, sooner or later you're going to walk into one of his traps.

He could move to his left to walk you into a right hand, or to his right because he knows that when you follow him you'll be right there for his left hook. So you don't follow a mover. That's what he wants you to do. You cut the ring off. You make it smaller and smaller until he's right in front of you with no place left to go.

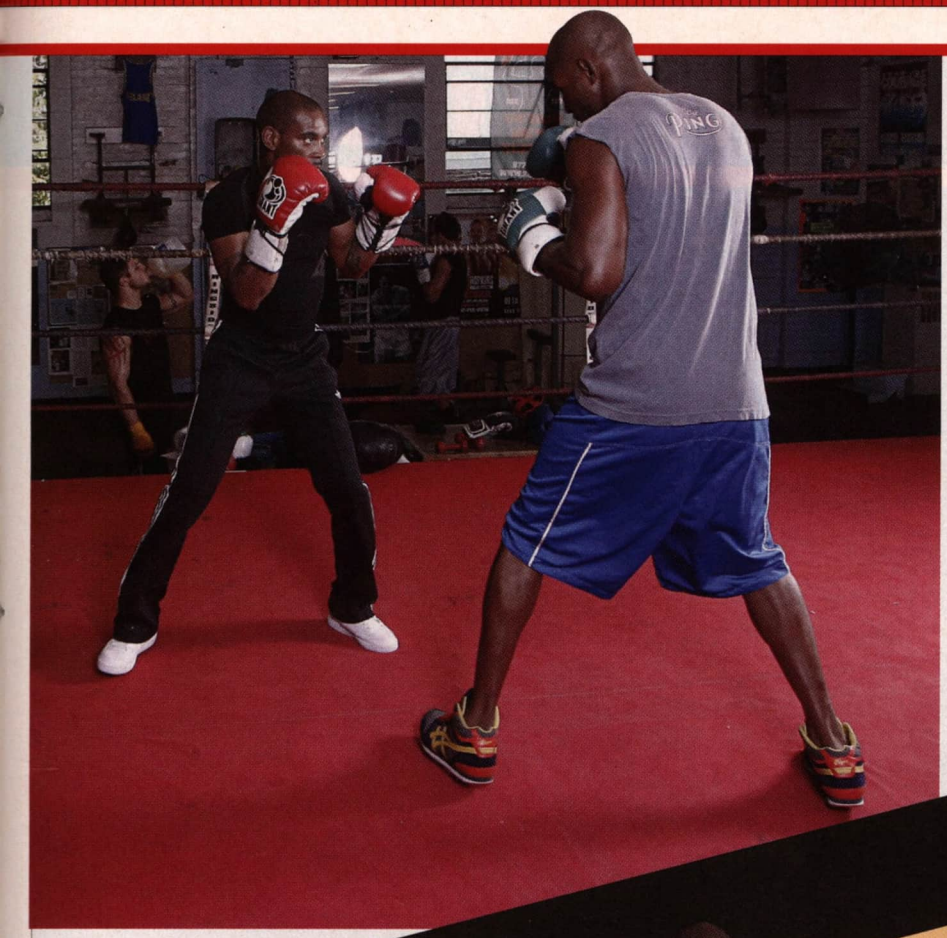
You don't follow him. You cut the ring off. If he goes left, you go to your right. If he goes right, you go to your left. You never go straight directly forward to him. Once you're three or four feet in front of him, you basically just stay on that line. When you trap him, that's where the battle starts, because the real estate is gone. You took the real estate away.

If you're a mover, don't think this doesn't apply to you. Sooner or later, someone will move on you too, and you'll need to know this. And even if that doesn't happen, it's good to know what the other guy is thinking. Danny Davis and I show you how.



BERNARD HOPKINS
Is the former middleweight and light heavyweight champion of the world.

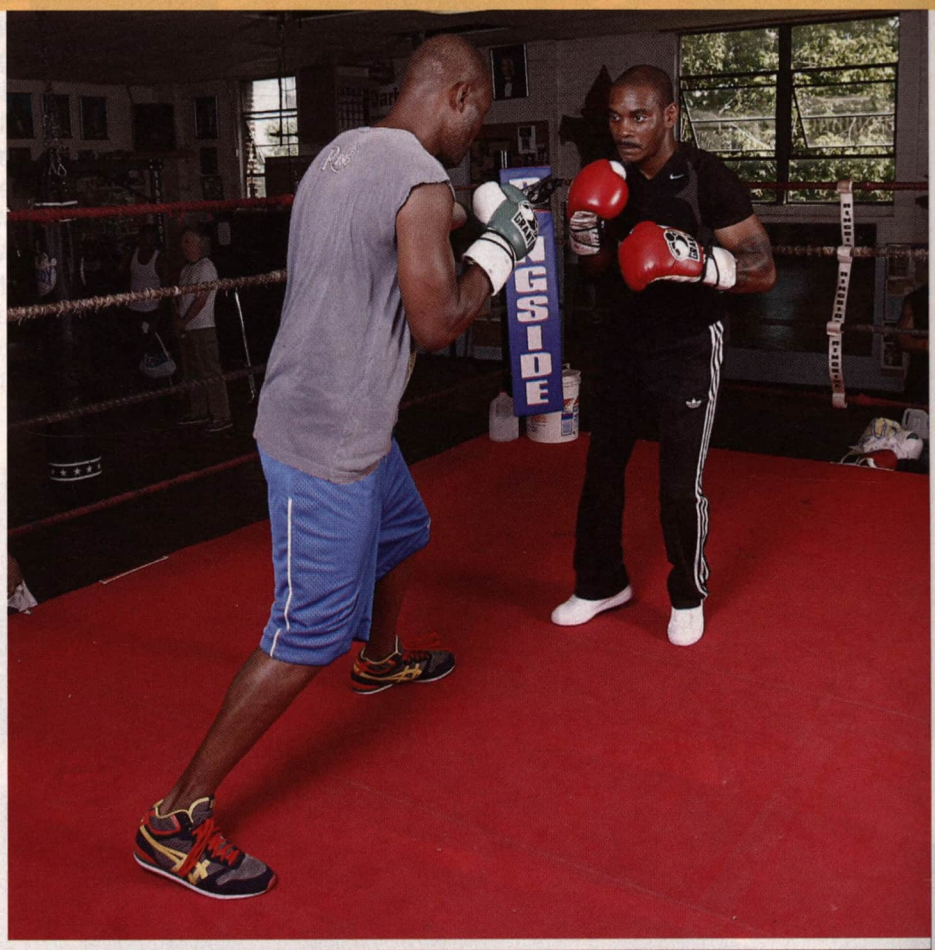
(All photos taken at Andy Carr's Gym in Upper Darby, PA)

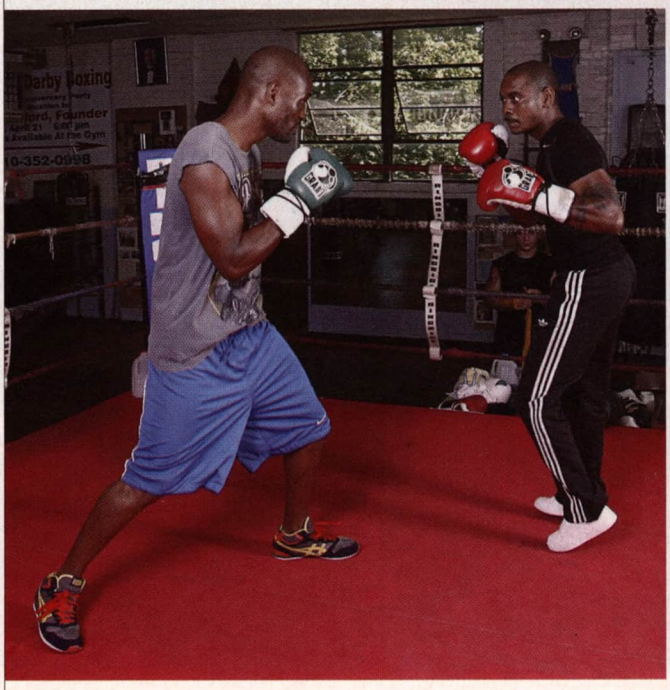


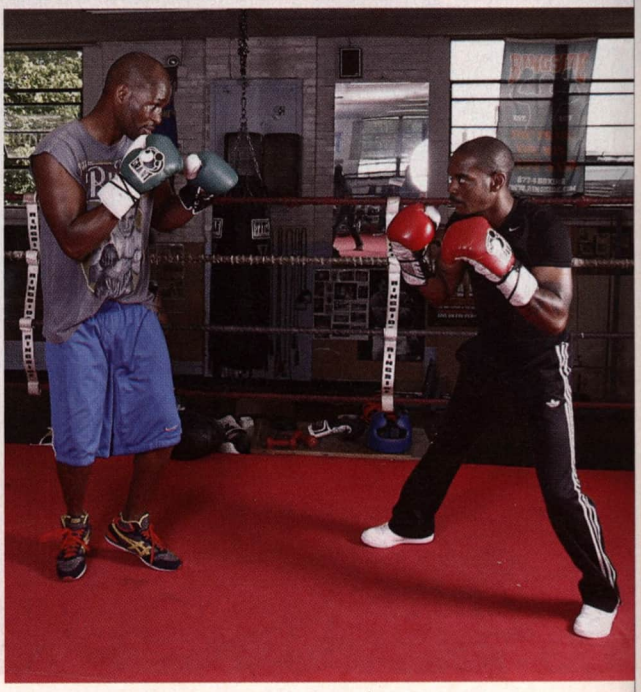
GET TO WITHIN THREE OR FOUR FEET OF YOUR MAN AND DO NOT MOVE STRAIGHT AT HIM. Move to the left or right, depending on which way he's going, but do not move in a straight line forward. Danny can't do anything in these pictures because I'm not letting him. I'm walking that line and he's running out of real estate. I'm going to walk him right to the ropes and when I get him there, that's where the fight starts.

THE WRONG WAY: PUPPY ON A LEASH

YOU SEE GUYS FOLLOW MOVERS AROUND THE RING LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME. Either they don't really want to corner their man, or they were never taught how to do it the right way. You can follow a good mover around like this all night and never land a good shot on him because you're letting him do exactly what he wants to do. Don't follow! The one exception: when you've got your man moving backward in a straight line, follow him all the way to the ropes and work your combinations. But if a man is moving in a circle, you don't follow. You cut off the ring.







GET YOUR FEET RIGHT

I'VE CUT OFF THE RING ON DANNY AND NOW I'VE GOT HIM AGAINST THE ROPES, EXACTLY WHERE I WANTED HIM ALL ALONG. How do I keep him there? By making the ring even smaller—with my feet. Look at them. He can't slide to his left, my right foot is blocking him. And even if he gets over there, he's in a corner, not good for him. He can try to slide to his right along the ropes, but my left foot will make it difficult. I'm in position where I can do anything I want and Danny can't do anything but get hit. Cutting off the ring isn't just about getting your man in the corner or on the ropes. It's about keeping him there.

By Michael Rivest
PHOTOS BY GLENN DEPRIEST

"You Ain't Nothing 'Til You Win 'The Gloves'"

Evander Holyfield got up one morning in May of 1984 and decided he would compete in the Golden Gloves National Tournament after all. "Since he was late signing up, he came straight to my hotel room and knocked on the door," said Ace Miller, the organization's president at the time. "I told him, 'Son, you've already qualified for the Olympic Trials, a loss here could jeopardize that. Why would you want to take the chance?'"

"Cuz you ain't nothing 'til you win 'The Gloves,'" said Holyfield.

That's what insiders call it: The Gloves. It's the amateur boxing organization with the most colorful history, the most graduates who've gone on to professional world championships, and the best name recognition. To outsiders, "Golden Gloves" is virtually synonymous with amateur boxing. You have to tell them there are other amateur entities – like USA Boxing, the Police Athletic League, and the military teams.

Holyfield, of course, went on to win it all that year, including the Bronze in the Olympics in Los Angeles, but winning the Golden Gloves still resonates with something deep inside him. "You have to look at this from a kid's perspective to understand," Holyfield said. "The Olympics are the top, but I was a kid growing up in the ghetto. Winning The Gloves told everybody back home I was the best in the 'language' they understood."

"Evander's just one of many of our famous alumni," said Jim Beasley, Golden Gloves of America's Executive Director. "We could start with Joe Louis in 1934, and in more recent years there's Muhammad Ali, Ray Leonard, Marvin Hagler, Mike Spinks, Mike Tyson, Oscar De La Hoya, Floyd Mayweather, I could go on and on."

These former champions are very much on Beasley's mind as he prepares for the 2010 Golden Gloves National Tournament in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 3 through May 8. "You can't organize the annual tournaments without looking at the names and wondering which one will be the next world champion," he said.

"Golden Gloves" was the name Arch Ward, sports editor for *The Chicago Tribune* in 1923, thought of when he got the idea to hold a boxing tournament to help keep young people in the gyms and off the streets. Winners would get a tiny golden glove as their trophy award.

Not everyone was supportive of Ward's idea. Illinois had an anti-boxing law on the books. "Sad as it is," said Beasley, "the ban was in all likelihood due to the number of African-Americans who would participate. It was a different world in 1923."

In 1927, the New York *Daily News* did its own version of *The Chicago Tribune*'s idea. Eventually, the newspapers began holding an annual intercity tournament. It was just a matter of time until young people began traveling from other parts of the country to New York or Chicago to join what was becoming a National Golden Gloves Tournament of Champions.

Then in 1963, Golden Gloves Director Stan Gallup had a big idea. "Stan divided the nation into 31 regions," explained Beasley, "each holding its own annual elimination contest culminating in one national tournament. It's essentially the structure we have today." Gallup served as Golden Gloves head until Beasley took over in 1998.

Sean O'Grady interviews Golden Gloves champ Louie Byrd

2010 Under-19 National Championship Tournament Results

February 9-12, 2010
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio

106 pounds: Carlos Suarez, Lima, OH, dec. Rondarrius Hunter, Atlanta, GA
112 pounds: Emmanuel Folly, Philadelphia, PA, dec. David Carlton, Cincinnati, OH
119 pounds: Emonte Scruggs, Dayton, OH, dec. David Rios, Edinburg, TX)
125 pounds: Luis Feliciano, Milwaukee, WI, dec. Luis Angel Zarazua, Edinburg, TX
132 pounds: Ryan Martin, Chattanooga, TN, dec. Antonio Capulin, Houston, TX
141 pounds: George Rincon, Dallas, TX, dec. David Moore, Milwaukee, WI
152 pounds: (female) Maria Norton Baumer, Cincinnati, OH. dec. Saraiah Edwards, Lexington, KY
152 pounds: Atlantez Fox, Forrestville, MD. dec. Moshea Aleem, Richmond, VA
165 pounds: Dimitrius Ballard, Temple Hills, MD, dec. Daquan Arnett, Orlando, FL
178 pounds: Trevor McCumby, Louisville, KY, dec. Jerry Odom, Bowie
201 pounds: Joshua Temple, St. Louis, MO, TKO 3 Timothy Moten, Louisville, KY

Unopposed Champions

Men

201+ pounds: Domonique Varela

Women

101 pounds: Charise Jones
106 pounds: Cassandra Mendoza
141 pounds: Diona Wigand
178+ pounds: Traynora Locke

Over the course of the next 25 years, Golden Gloves became immensely popular and a natural feeder system, not only to the Olympic Games, but also to the pros. Their annual national tournaments were often televised events that inspired youth to find a gym and glove up. But then a page turned on Golden Gloves and on amateur boxing in general.

"It isn't what it used to be, and that troubles me," said Sugar Ray Leonard. "A combination of factors, like the amateur boxing scoring problems, and the stereotypes boxing unfairly suffers from as a sport that encourages youth violence, and one that 'causes brain damage.' All these things have hurt it."

"It's a real shame," adds Holyfield. "Boxing doesn't cause youth violence; it prevents it. It gives kids direction, purpose, discipline, and self-respect. People who have those things don't get in street fights."

On the subject of injuries, Leonard becomes especially animated. "Hey, boxing is a tough sport, but look at what they're finding out about the number of concussions in football. Amateur boxing is safe by comparison," he added, "primarily because of the steps it takes to protect the boxers."

Leonard is right. The National Safety Council (1995) found that amateur boxing remains the contact sport with the least amount of injuries.

Beasley added that one of those safety measures—headgear—came with a cost. The audience could no longer see the boxers' faces and that de-personalized amateur boxing for the fans. "It was an unfortunate consequence of the safety move."

Times are changing, but "We've been tested before," said Beasley confidently. "Golden Gloves will survive anything for the simple reason that it works. Kids come out of the program a better version of themselves."

"Boxing Changed Me"

Before accepting his current post as Executive Director of Golden Gloves of America in 1998, Jim Beasley had served on the organization's Board of Directors. He was also once the president, and before that, the secretary. "I'd been through the chairs," he said laughing.

But Jim's passion for the organization is rooted elsewhere, long before all these administrative posts. "I boxed in the Kansas City Golden Gloves from 1956 to 1959."

"It's an experience I'll never forget," he said. It changed me and how I felt about myself."

"There I was, this 127-pound kid, suddenly realizing that boxing leveled the playing field. It didn't matter how small I was. Boxing's weight divisions took care of that."

It was an unforgettable lesson in self-confidence for Beasley. "When you're 17-years old, looking at the world as this big place you're about to step into, self-confidence is really the only thing you can bring along," he said. "Boxing is like life in that way."

Jim took that confidence into the Marine Corps, boxing on their team until his discharge in 1962.

"Now, when I look at all these kids coming into the National Tournament, entering the ring under those bright lights, I can see the same lesson being passed on."

"It comes down to this," he said. "If they can make it in the ring, they can make it in life." ■

Former middleweight champion Gene Fullmer and Jim Beasley

The Fight Doctor

By Margaret Goodman, M.D.

Can Boxing Stop The Use Of PEDs?

When Floyd Mayweather faces Shane Mosley on May 1st, both fighters will have undergone "Olympic-style" drug testing. But will they compete free of performance enhancing drugs (PEDs)? More importantly, the sport must formulate an effective anti-doping program to regain its credibility.

Ever since the Pacquiao-Mayweather negotiations broke down over drug testing issues, it is laughable how every commission and sanctioning organization have remained silent on drug testing—hoping that the issue disappears. Perhaps we shouldn't be surprised. Boxing barely blinked an eye when Mosley admitted under oath to a Grand Jury in 2007 that he took anabolic steroids and EPO (erythropoietin) provided by Victor Conte's Bay Area Laboratory Co-operative (BALCO) prior to his 2003 fight against Oscar De La Hoya.

THE RING contacted the American Association of Professional Ring Physicians to find out how many commissions test for anabolic steroids and when. Less than half of the Association of Boxing Commission members responded to this inquiry. Only a handful of those jurisdictions test at all, none conduct unannounced between-competition exams, and only one said they would change their policies given what happened with Pacquiao-Mayweather.

PHOTO BY HOGANPHOTOS/GOLDEN BOY PROMOTIONS

Will Mosley's bout with Mayweather lead to tougher drug testing?

Even Nevada State Athletic Commission Executive Director Keith Kizer is under the delusion that the NSAC's program is sufficient. In a recent interview with the *Philadelphia Daily News*, Kizer said, "We actually had some experts from the U.S. Olympic Committee and USADA come here eight or nine months ago to talk about our drug-testing policy. They didn't have a problem with it."

United States Anti-Doping Agency Chief Travis Tygart not only believes boxing's drug-testing program is "worthless," he says the USADA never spoke to the NSAC, nor were they asked to make recommendations.

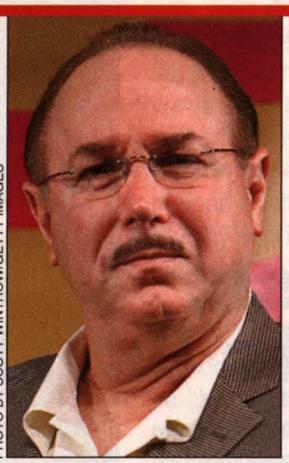


PHOTO BY SCOTT WINTROW/GETTY IMAGES

Could convicted Conte actually help boxing?

When will commissions stop lying to themselves, stop fooling the public, and make changes in boxing's drug-testing system?

Tygart believes there is an easy solution. "WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency,) has the model and the rules," said Tygart. "Commissions can pass regulations using WADA's Basic Rules of Competition and Rules of Implementation."

"This can be done one of two ways—from the top down or the bottom up," said Tygart. "Either a major commission or sanctioning body can adopt the code and require the testing of everyone. The second way would be to gather the support of the athletes. We have always been open to working with everyone. The athletes deserve to be protected and there needs to be a level playing field."

We need the help of those with the right experience.

Victor Conte served a four-month prison sentence in 2005 for conspiracy to distribute steroids and money laundering. Truth is there is no one who understands the situation as well as he. I believe Conte now genuinely wants to help the sport and is in the best position to educate those in control to deal with the problem. As frustrating as this may be for some, it takes one to know one!

"Boxing must establish anti-doping protocols that include a reasonable number of random blood and urine tests leading up to a fight," said Conte. "Simply testing urine samples (as is now done by some commissions) before and after bouts is not effective. In my opinion, those who say anything different are either uninformed or are harboring and promoting boxing's drug culture."

Conte recommends a minimum of four random urine and blood tests starting eight weeks out from a fight—perhaps stopping blood testing five days before the event and repeat testing immediately following the bout.

Standard T/E ratio testing of testosterone to epitestosterone identifies increased amounts in someone's system, but it is rather easy to beat. Instead Conte suggests including the CIR (carbon isotope ratio) test. This will differentiate between naturally occurring testosterone and synthetic (administered testosterone). The CIR exam runs about $500. If suspicions run high, and if those monitoring Mosley and Mayweather for anabolic steroids are serious, this is the necessary exam.

Aggressive drug testing is feasible for Mayweather-Mosley, but what about boxers who live in outlying areas and foreign countries far from WADA-approved laboratories?

"These are not legitimate reasons to not implement testing," noted Tygart. "The USADA faces these issues day in and day out and deals with athletes all over the world."

In the end, cost becomes a greater excuse than logistics. But even this can be simplified by negotiating with laboratories, legislative support, and tax-generated money from ticket sales.

There is no fool-proof anti-doping program because of the lack of effective tests for certain substances, and there will always be new substances that cheaters employ—drugs that can't yet be included on a test. Selective Androgen Receptor Modulators (SARMs) and gene therapies are two examples.

SARMs are used to treat illnesses such as cancer wasting (muscle loss) and osteoporosis (bone loss). They have found their way to the black market to enhance athletic performance by providing the benefits of anabolic steroids with fewer side effects. Furthermore, no one has investigated their undesirable effects, and impurities have been found in those sold illegally.

The real future in athlete doping may be the use of genetic therapies to replace anabolic steroids. Gene therapies can help patients with degenerative disease and genetic defects have an improved quality of life. A 2004 *Scientific American* article noted that genetic therapy includes, "treatments that regenerate muscle, increase its strength, and protect it from degeneration." An athlete could take a gene that lasts for years, producing large amounts of a naturally occurring muscle-building chemical.

In 2008, WADA prohibited the use of SARMs, but there is no test to document their presence. Currently, government agencies are looking to adopt laws and regulations to stop the trafficking of SARMs. WADA already prohibits gene doping, including the use of stem cells.

A less-is-more philosophy could also replace traditional doping techniques. Athletes may be using multiple partial doses of anabolic agents and EPO to avoid detection. The drugs clear the system quicker and lower the risks of detection while still providing performance enhancement.

"This debate has created an opportunity for those with a genuine interest in the welfare of boxing to step up and take appropriate action," said Conte. "Drug use in boxing can be significantly reduced, but it will take effective leadership. Hopefully those with money, power, and obligation to provide such leadership will come forward and do so."

A drug-free, level playing field is what jurisdictions must provide if a fight is to be fair and safe. Hopefully, Mosley and Mayweather will move this process in the right direction, as long as all results will be released to the public and the commission upon receipt. Otherwise they might as well not waste our time. ■

By Jim Bagg

Risky Business, Or Business As Usual?

It takes something very out of the ordinary to waste valuable space in THE RING writing about *Golf Digest*. Golf talk in a boxing mag is like going to a Sinatra concert back in the day and having "Ol' Blue Eyes" bust out a Barry Manilow cover. Boxing is the king of sports; golf barely is a sport.

But thanks to one ill-timed cover story a couple of months back, *Golf Digest* is relevant to what Old Bagg Eyes is writing about in this column. That cover featured Tiger Woods playing caddy to Prez Obama, with a headline suggesting that the Barackinator should turn to America's favorite car-crashing, driveway-snoring sex addict for advice on how to run the country. The magazine was produced just before the Eldrickmeister drove his career into a bunker. It was distributed just after. All it takes is a little bit of bad timing to turn a fine idea into the kind of idea that gets editors fired.

On the surface, to the simple-minded, last month's "Hitting On The Break" column, in which the Baggareeno accused Floyd Mayweather of being a pathological ducker, might have looked similarly poorly timed. After all, by the time the column reached readers, Mayweather had signed to fight Shane Mosley. Here was the world's greatest columnist writing that "Money" was afraid to fight anyone he thought had a chance of beating him, and as soon as the ink dried on the April issue of THE RING, fresh ink was also applied to a contract for a fight with Sugar Shane. Massive shank off the tee by the Baggityville Horror, right?

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Was Mosley's domination of Margarito deceiving?

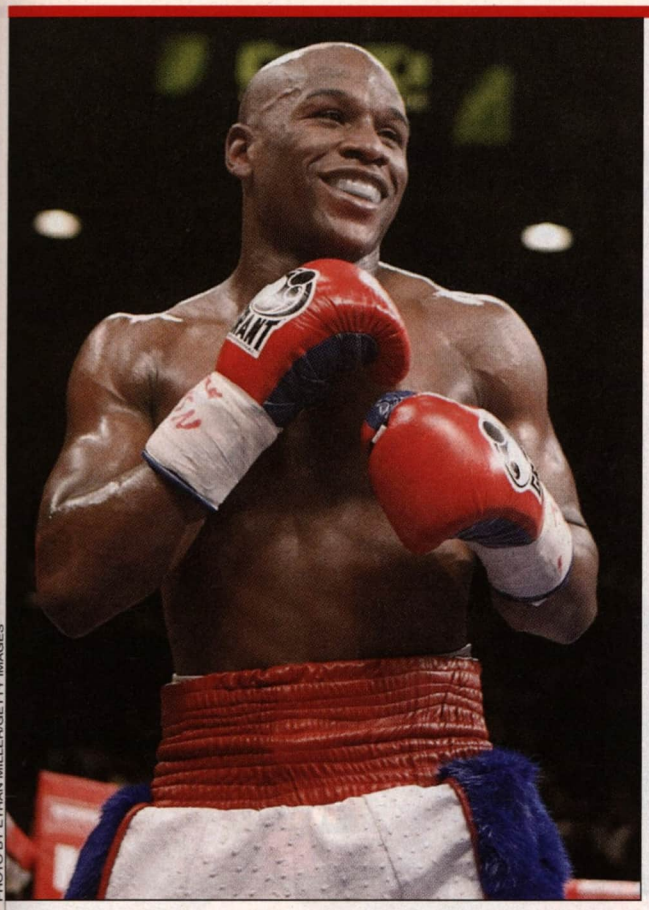


PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Maybe Mayweather has a good reason to smile

Wrong. Those incapable of thinking outside the box might have thought the world's greatest boxing columnist was losing his claim to the throne. However, if there's one thing the Baggarrhea knows, it's thrones. He spends more time on the throne each day pushing and grunting than the average person spends there in a week. But the Baggnificence digresses. The point here is that he wasn't wrong about Mayweather at all. What does Little Floyd signing to take on Sugar Shane really mean? It means that Mayweather must see something in Mosley that the rest of us don't. He must see a fighter who is not a threat to beat him.

The Bagglestiltskin knows what you're thinking: This dean of boxing columnists is just being pig-headed and sticking to his guns. Well, yes, yours truly is a bit porcine in the noodle. And he has indeed Krazy-Glued himself to his weaponry. But this isn't a case of blind stubbornness. This is a case of knowing what makes Mayweather tick. And this is a case of using that knowledge and taking a closer look at Mosley. Add it up, and let's just say the Bagginator won't be surprised if, on fight night, Mosley doesn't look like the pound-for-pound force we think he is.

For starters, Mosley is 38 years old. He might be fighting a chicken in the spring, but he's no spring chicken. Yes, we've seen boxers remain capable into their 40s, particularly in recent years, but those are rarities. You can count on one or two hands the number of boxers who've remained on the pound-for-pound list at 38 or beyond. Even Mosley's most diehard fans would have to admit it's *possible* that he'll show sudden signs of deterioration on May 1. And because Mayweather agreed to fight him, that makes it downright probable.

Add to that Sugar Shane's layoff, which will have extended to more than 15 months by fight night. That's approximately the average gestation period of a whale. (The Baggamuffin looked that factoid up—thanks again to Al Gore for the Internet.) Draw whatever conclusions you like from the comparison of Mosley and a whale fetus, but 15 months is a long time. And old plus rusty does not equal the ideal combination for beating the best pure boxer in the game.

Then there's the little matter of Mosley's recent form and how one spectacular performance might have deceived the viewing public. The Baggapotamus doesn't mean to detract from how good he looked in beating the mullet off Antonio Margarito, but it's hard to imagine that getting caught loading your hand wraps a few minutes before the fight wouldn't throw off a fighter's mental game ever so slightly. Also, to coin a brand new phrase that nobody has ever uttered before, styles make fights. Margarito was too slow and too easy to hit for a speedster like Mosley. Sure, Mosley did look great. And no, Margarito wasn't so bad that he could have been beaten by just anybody. But the styles made it so that Mosley didn't have to turn back the clock and be in his physical prime to win. He just needed to prevent the hands on the clock from advancing any farther than they already had.

PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Mayorga gave Mosley problems, especially early in the fight

And looking at his previous few fights, those hands had advanced somewhat—and that's surely what Mayweather was looking at when he signed on the solid line (Seriously, when was the last time you saw anybody use a dotted line?). Immediately before he made Margarito look like a stiff, Mosley made Ricardo Mayorga look like a stud—at least for 11 rounds. Sugar Shane closed the show impressively and got the kayo, but until then, he appeared to be turning back Mayorga's clock the same way Margarito appeared to turn back his.

Right before that, Mosley lost a close fight to Miguel Cotto, who is a fine pugilist but is no Mayweather in the skill department. And if you'll remember, when Cotto used his jab and boxed, Mosley couldn't do much with him. That was against Cotto, not Mayweather. If you can't ride a bicycle, how are you going to ride a unicycle? (Or, since the unicycle is supposed to represent Money May in this equation, maybe the question should be how are you going to ride a Segway?)

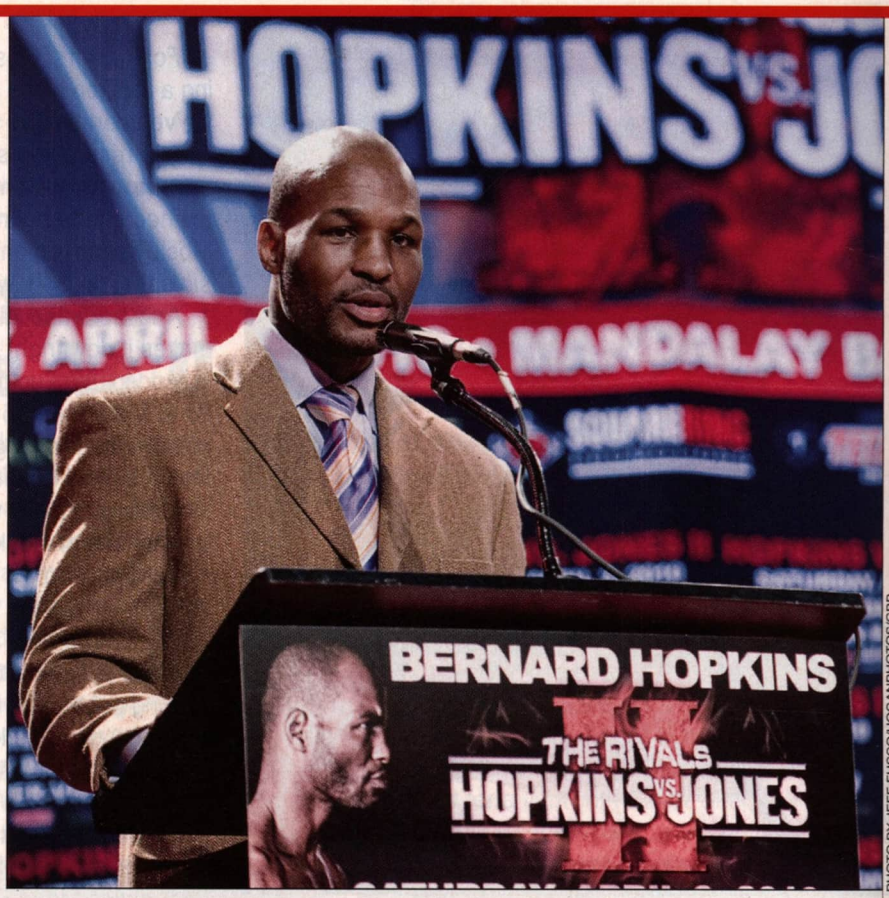


PHOTO BY JEFF FUSCO/HOGANPHOTOS/GBP

Who would have thought B-Hop would outlast Taylor?

Going back farther on Mosley's resume, you'll see that he looked good twice beating the decayed remains of Fernando Vargas, who was so slow he should have been nicknamed "El Frozen" instead of "El Feroz." But he looked lousy twice losing to disciplined and skilled boxer Winky Wright. Which of those opponents more closely resembles Mayweather stylistically?

Nothing against this fight, which could prove entertaining, could prove competitive, and with Pacquiao out of the picture for now, is the most compelling option available to Mayweather. But since that day almost eight years ago when Jose Luis Castillo put a little scare into him, Floyd hasn't shared the ring with anybody he thought might beat him. He found a way around fighting Pacquiao, but he went ahead and signed to fight Mosley. Some have taken this to mean that Mayweather's testicles suddenly descended. The Baggtometrist has taken it to say more about Mosley than Mayweather.

When people look at Tiger Woods, they see a very different person than they saw a few months ago, even though he happens to be the exact same person now that he was then. When Mayweather looks at Mosley, he doesn't see the guy who defeated Margarito. He sees a very different fighter. He sees the guy who's going to lose to Mayweather. Otherwise, this fight wouldn't be happening.

Questions Without Answers

It's been a while since the Baggnificent dug into his bottomless well of rhetorical questions, so here goes with a few for your reading pleasure:

- What sort of odds do you think you could have gotten four years ago, after Jermain Taylor had twice decisioned 40-year-old Bernard Hopkins and was the reigning 27-year-old middleweight champion of the world, that Hopkins would be on the pound-for-pound list in 2010 while Taylor would be strongly considering retirement?
- How exciting would the last two pressure-packed rounds of Luis Abregu vs. Richard Gutierrez have been if not for Jose Sulaiman's insistence on continuing his failed experiment with open scoring?
- If Nicolay Valuev ever became the blow-by-blow announcer on *ShoBox*, would the commentating team be known as "Farhood & Forehead"?
- How much longer until Anthony Mundine is fighting at a lower weight than Manny Pacquiao?
- Isn't it a shame that the careers of Nathan Cleverly and Willy Wise didn't overlap, so that we could have had a Cleverly-Wise fight with only Mensa members allowed to buy tickets?
- Wouldn't it be funny if Hugo Chavez had a big ugly Edwin Valero tattoo across his chest?

And The Stingray Goes To ...

Reymundo "The Prosecutor" Hernandez, who presented closing arguments in the fraud trial of Noah Zuhdi and proved the previously undefeated Oklahoma state lightweight champion guilty. Fighting in Zuhdi's hometown of Oklahoma City, Hernandez, who came in with a record of

The Monthly Mailbagg

The northeast got pelted with one blizzard after another this winter, but neither rain nor snow nor gloom of night stays the Mailbagg couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds:

Dear Baggstroke,

I loved the Baggie Awards as usual, but I have to disagree about one of them. How could you call Juan Manuel Marquez the Imbecile of the Year for drinking his own urine? I think it was a pretty smart marketing move, since it was by far the most talked-about moment of *24/7* and the fight way exceeded pay-per-view expectations. That earned him some extra money, and then he got another $600,000 for letting Floyd come in overweight. Marquez had a career year financially, and he's still the lightweight champ even though he lost. Doesn't sound like an imbecile to me.

Tom Paul

T.P.,

The Baggatee will grant you that Marquez' bank account had a great year. But think about what you're saying: You called him smart for drinking his own pee! What's next? Kelly Pavlik gets a Rhodes Scholarship for rolling around in his own feces? Not to mention, the very thing you commended him for, letting Mayweather come in two pounds overweight, eliminated any faint chance Marquez had of winning. Sorry, but the Baggnanarama stands by his Imbecile of the Year award. Unless you'd like to put your name in the hat, Tom, in which case the Baggbreaker might be willing to reconsider.

PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Marquez still an "imbecile" says Bagg

5-7 that included six knockout losses in the first two rounds, exposed Zuhdi is short order.

Zuhdi was a perfect 9-0 (9) entering the fight, but it's important to note that his nine opponents had a combined record of 7-28-1. So Hernandez qualified as a step up, sadly. And he made certain it was too high of a step.

A local fight blog called it "the shocker of the year"—and as of early-February when it happened, maybe it was. Less than a minute into the fight, Hernandez dropped Zuhdi to a knee with a right hand. Zuhdi got up, but he was unsteady and The Prosecutor laid down the law with several power-punches that left Zuhdi out on his feet, prompting a stoppage from ref Gerald Ritter after just 76 seconds.

The Baggareeno hopes for Hernandez' sake that he is indeed a prosecutor by day, because a 6-7 record against an assortment of nobodies and neophytes does not a profitable boxing career make. But whether he puts criminals behind bars or not, Hernandez definitely put a fraud in his place inside the prize ring. And that gives him something F. Lee Bailey and Alan Dershowitz never earned: a Stingray Award. ■

Jim Bagg can be reached at Baggmeister@yahoo.com.

Come Out Writing

Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, THE RING, P.O. Box 114, Blue Bell, PA 19422.

Or e-mail letters to comeoutwriting@yahoo.com. E-mailed letters will include the writer's e-mail address unless a city and state of origin is provided.

Gatekeeper Ricky

Ricky Hatton has announced that he is coming back to the ring after his disastrous outing against pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao. Although a lot of fans and observers feel that Hatton should retire after the brutal fashion in which his last fight ended, I do not agree. We now know that Hatton does not belong amongst the welterweight elite, but I feel that he can still cut it amongst the prospects of the junior welterweight division. Hatton is the kind of fighter to expose how far hot prospects such as Amir Khan and Tim Bradley have come and how far they may go.

BRIAN MARDELL
Dartford, England

New Level Of Perfection

I have been reading THE RING magazine for over 40 years, which in itself is testimony to how much I like the product. But I have to say that Bernard Hopkins' "Perfect Execution" brings an entirely new level to your magazine. We currently have a top-ranked Canadian fighter training at Syd "The Jewel" Vanderpools' gym who is not throwing the double left hook. Guess what is glued to the gym wall this week—the March issue featuring Hopkins demonstrating the double left hook. I often hear our mutual friend "Talkinboxing" Billy Calogero and THE RING's own Joe Santoliquito lamenting the lack of "old-school trainers." Hopkins' articles are superb for training purposes and it is my hope that he will at some point, along with your magazine, put out a collection of "Perfect Execution" in a book format for all trainers. Keep up the great work.

MICHAEL J. SCHMIDT
Kitchener, ON

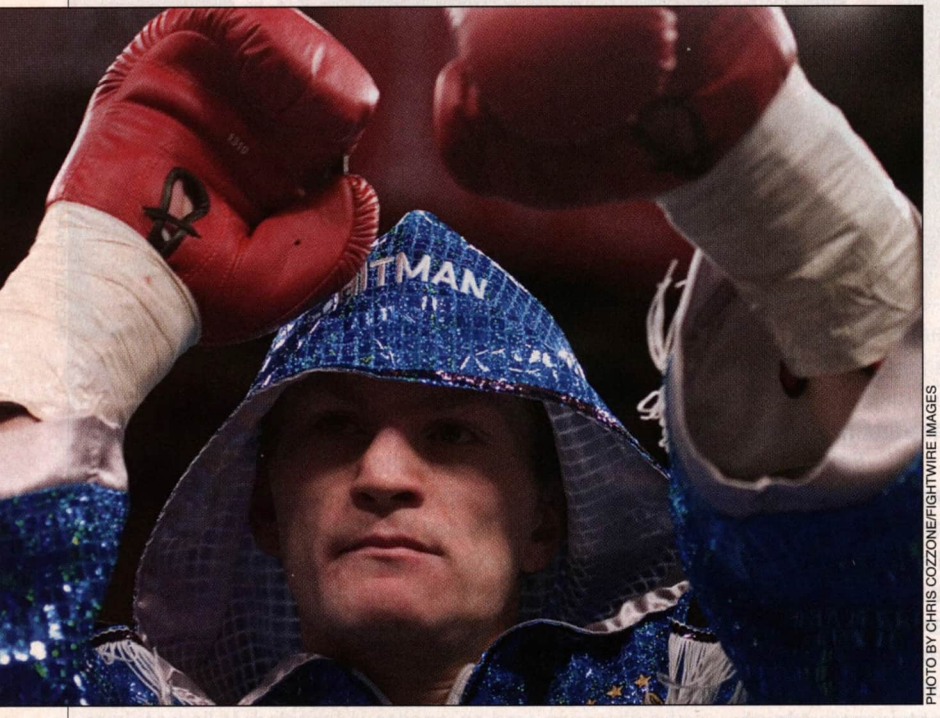


PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

A lot of fans want former junior welterweight champion Ricky Hatton to retire, but reader Brian Mardell disagrees. He believes that Hatton still has enough left to test 140-pound up-and-comers.

Floyd Ducking Manny

How ironic that THE RING should feature Floyd Mayweather vs. welterweight greats of the past weeks before he decides to duck one of the great fighters of the present. Is there a boxing fan anywhere on the planet that does not know Mayweather is running from Pacquiao? Pacquiao went hunting for this fight, only to have it put off by some ridiculous drug-testing excuse used by Floyd. Can anyone imagine Sugar Ray Robinson using such a lame excuse to avoid a fight? If Mayweather really expects to be rated among the all-time greats he has to fight the greats.

JOSEPH DISTLER
Paris, France

Floyd Mayweather is everything that is wrong with boxing. As the stars lined up, as the perfect storm brewed, the boxing world waited for word of a Pacquiao-Mayweather showdown. But it was not to be. Floyd's camp, as we have gotten used to, began fabricating stories it could not substantiate. Manny has followed every boxing commission's rules and has never failed a drug test. It is just another nonsense move

PHOTO BY TOM HOGAN/GOLDEN BOY PROMOTIONS

There were letters about both Floyd Mayweather and Max Kellerman this issue. Joseph Distler and Brian LaTerra rip Mayweather, while Fernando A. Trujillo is unhappy with Kellerman.

from Floyd and his camp. And as if he has not embarrassed himself enough on his *24/7* appearances, he now goes on *Joe Buck Live* and claims he bets on boxing. Please re-retire, Floyd, so boxing can continue on without your sideshow. You have now made Zab Judah appear mature.

BRIAN LaTERRA
Laterra76@hotmail.com

Pacquiao vs. Duran

Manny Pacquiao is definitely an all-time great. He is on a fantastic winning streak and I'm looking forward to seeing how the rest of his career plays out. His success while jumping up in weight has been compared to Henry Armstrong, but I think of a comparison to Roberto Duran! Roberto didn't start at flyweight, but he also jumped up in weight with great success, only against a better class of fighters. Manny could not have handled Sugar Ray Leonard the way Duran did in their first fight. "Manos de Piedra" would beat "Pac-Man" hands down!

RICK FLANAGAN
St. Louis, MO

Year-End Disagreement

Most of the time when THE RING's Year-End Awards are announced, I agree with the Fight of the Year selection, but not this year. Carl Froch and Jermain Taylor put on an incredible display of back-and-forth action and good sportsmanship. Unfortunately, we won't see a rematch. If Taylor retires, I want to wish him all the best.

RICK POMMELLS
Edmonton, AB

Viva Valero!

Because Edwin Valero has had his problems getting fights in the United States, most of us have not seen him in action. Fortunately, I recently subscribed to Showtime, so I got an opportunity to see him against Antonio DeMarco. Valero was spectacular, particularly after sustaining a huge gash on his forehead from an accidental blow from DeMarco's elbow and an innocuous cut over his eye. Neither stopped his aggressive onslaught. DeMarco was a respectable opponent, but he needs to work on his physique. He looked like a boy in the ring against a man. It would seem to me that Valero is destined to end up fighting Manny Pacquiao.

JOE THOMPSON
Charlotte, NC

Clowns Behind The Mic

Boy, what a turn around! After watching Victor Ortiz stop Antonio Diaz on HBO, screaming Max Kellerman made some kind remarks concerning Ortiz' TKO loss to Marcos Maidana a few months back. But at the time, Kellerman called Ortiz a quitter and said the honorable thing to do would be to get carried out on his shield. Carried out like Z Gorres, Marco Nazareth, and Pancho Mancivias? Those poor guys got carried out—straight to the hospital, two of them soon transferred to the morgue. Is that what Max and ranting Teddy Atlas (who always talks about not "behaving like a warrior") want? It's incredible how a couple of clowns sitting behind microphones can talk such garbage.

FERNANDO A. TRUJILLO
Pomona, CA ■

By Don Stewart

Kelly At The Crossroads

If it seems as if we've been waiting a while for the next stage of **Kelly Pavlik's** career to begin in earnest, it's because we have. The world middleweight champ has blown past overmatched challengers **Marco Antonio Rubio** and **Miguel Angel Espino** since his October 2008 points loss to the ageless **Bernard Hopkins**. In the meantime, though, more meaningful tests against **Paul Williams** and **Sergio Mora** were scrapped due to Pavlik's myriad hand issues.

In a competitive limbo since his lone career defeat, "The Ghost" will get another chance to rise against a top-notch opponent April 17 when he's scheduled to meet lefty **Sergio Martinez** at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey. If Pavlik's fragile paw holds up, it will be a crossroads fight for the Youngstown, Ohio, native. Will the 27-year-old Pavlik, 36-1 (32), finally regain the momentum he built before the B-Hop setback? Or was that loss the start of a slow slide from prominence?

We should get some answers from Martinez, 44-2-2 (24), THE RING's number-one ranked junior middleweight. While Pavlik is like Tom Hanks at the end of *Castaway*, Martinez might be playing the Dustin Hoffman role in *Last Chance Harvey*. The 35-year-old Argentine was impressive in 2009 performances against **Kermit Cintron** (draw) and Williams (majority-decision loss), but was denied a win by the judges on both occasions. Like a masochist, Martinez is venturing back to U.S. soil to take on a popular American in front of what will certainly be a pro-Pavlik crowd.

"It's a terrific fight and I think Kelly is going to win," Pavlik promoter **Bob Arum** told ESPN.com, "but we know this is a very tough fight."

The 6'2" Pavlik will have a considerable size advantage against the 5'11" Martinez, and if junior middleweights such as Williams and Cintron could rock Martinez, Pavlik is certainly capable of rolling him early. Like Cintron, Pavlik is a lanky slugger whose best punch is a straight right set up by a long left jab.

But with his slick southpaw style, hand speed, and excellent lateral movement, Martinez presents problems for anyone, not to mention Pavlik, who has not faced a southpaw since he stopped a faded **Bronco McKart** in 2006. In terms of strength, Martinez scored an early knockdown against the larger Williams. He also dropped Cintron, who thought he'd been hit by a skull instead of Martinez' padded fist. And let's face it, Pavlik's chin has never quite matched up to his world-class heart.

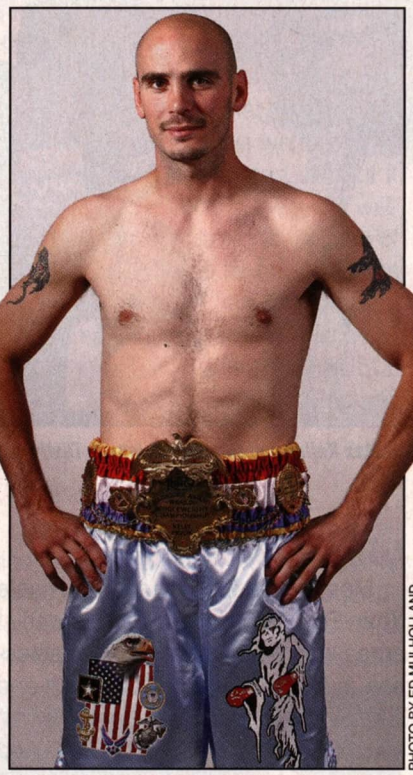


PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND

Pavlik set for significant defense against Martinez

It's a matchup that could conceivably go in several directions. Fittingly, the same goes for Pavlik's career.

Listen Up

The final kinks were still being ironed out at press time, but it appeared that THE RING number-two middleweight, **Paul Williams**, 38-1 (27), was set to return, May 8, on HBO against **Kermit Cintron**, 32-2-1 (28), THE RING's third-ranked junior middle. Williams is expected to drop back down to 154 for the bout. The two were scheduled to meet in a welterweight unification fight back in February 2008 before Cintron pulled out due to a hand injury sustained in a November 2007 kayo of **Jesse Feliciano** ... On the same night that Pavlik and Martinez link up, red-hot super middleweight beltholder **Lucian Bute**, 25-0 (20), defends against the ever-dangerous **Edison Miranda**, 33-4 (29), in Bute's adopted hometown of Montreal, Canada. HBO will televise Pavlik-Martinez and Bute-Miranda as a split-site broadcast ... The second stage of Showtime's "Super Six" super middleweight tournament continues on April 24, when **Carl Froch**, 26-0 (20), meets former co-favorite **Mikkel Kessler**, 42-2 (32), in Denmark, and **Andre Ward**, 21-0 (13), faces substitute **Allan Green**, 29-1 (20), at a U.S. site that had yet to be determined as of mid-February ... **Danny Green**, 28-3 (25), had hoped his one-round blowout of **Roy Jones** would result in a shot at Bernard Hopkins. But with Hopkins and Jones pushing ahead with their decade-overdue rematch on April 3, however, Green will settle for trial horse **Manny Siaca**, 22-6 (19), April 25 at the Entertainment Centre in Sydney, Australia. ... Ghana's **Joseph "King Kong" Agbeko** heads to South Africa for an untelevised IBF bantamweight eliminator on April 16 against **Vusi Malinga**, 19-3-1 (12). Agbeko, 27-2 (22), is looking to bounce back from his narrow points loss to **Yohnny Perez** in October. ■

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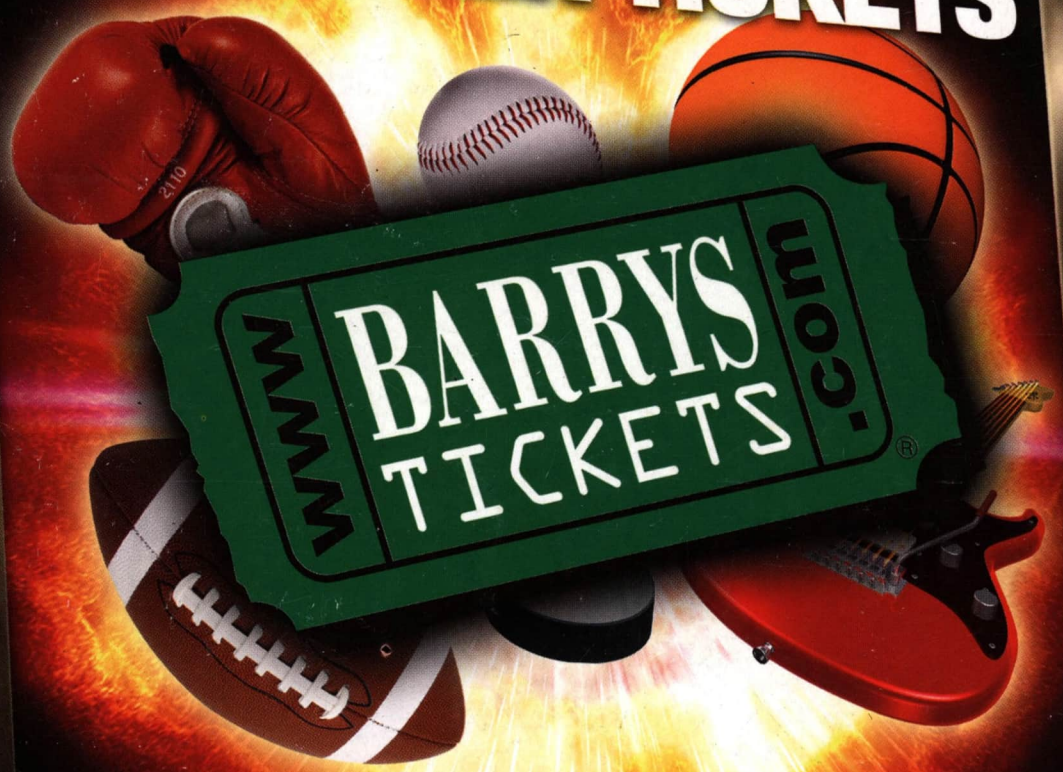

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